THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 148, Vol. VI.

Saturday, October 28, 1865.

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THE PROFESSORSHIP of EXPERI-MENTAL PHILOSOPHY, OXFORD.

THE ELECTORS TO THIS PROFESSORSHIP give notice that it is their intention to proceed to the Election of a Professor in the month of November next. A statement of the Duties and Empluments of the Office may be obtained from Dr. Rowden, the Registrar of the University; to whom, also, persons intending to become Candidates are requested to send in their Names and any Papers in support of their applications, on or before Wednesday, the 15th of November next.

J. P. LIGHTFOOT, Vice-Chancellor.

Exeter College, October 17, 1865.

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ROYAL SCHOOL of NAVAL ARCHI-TECTURE and MARINE ENGINEERING, at SOUTH MENSINGTON.—The SECOND SESSION of the School will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1. Students are requested to attend at the Principal's Office, South Kensing-ton, on that day before TWELVE o'clock, or previously, to get their admission papers signed.

For information as to Free Scholarships, Exhibitions, &c. apply by letter to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington, W., or personally at the School.

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W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT EXHIBITION
in 1866.—The Lords of the Committee of Council on Education have determined to hold a NATIONAL PORTRAIT
EXHIBITION at SOUTH KENSINGTON, in the ARCADES
overlooking the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens, which
will be opened in APRIL, 1866.
This Exhibition is based upon the suggestions made by the
Earl of Derby, in a letter dated 6th May, 1865, from which the
following extract is made:—
"I have long thought that a National Portrait Exhibition."

"I have long thought that a National Portrait Exhibition, chronologically arranged, might not only possess great historical interest, by bringing together portraits of all the most eminent contemporaries of their respective eras, but might also serve to illustrate the progress and condition, at various periods, of British Art. My idea, therefore, would be to admit either portraits of eminent men, though by inferior or unknown artists, or portraits by eminent artists, though of obscure or unknown individuals. I have, of course, no means of knowing or estimating the number of such portraits which may exist in the country; but I am persuaded that, exclusive of the large collections in many great houses, there are very many scattered about by ones and twos and threes in private families, the owners of which, though they could not be persuaded to part with them, would willingly spare them for a few months for a public object."

My Lords have constituted a Committee of Advice, consisting of the Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, and other noblemen and gentlemen.

Mr. Samuel Redgrave, to whose valuable labours the success u formation of the Collection of Portrait Miniatures is chiefly due, has undertaken the special charge of directing the Exhibition, and Mr. Sketchley will act as Secretary.

ARRANGEMENTS APPROVED FOR THE EXHIBITION.

1. The Exhibition is specially designed to illustrate English History, and the progress of Art in England. It may be divided into two or three sections, representing distinct historic periods exhibited in successive years, depending upon the number of the portraits received, and the space available for their proper exhibition.

2. It will comprise the portraits of persons of every class who have in any way attained eminence or distinction in England, from the date of the earliest authentic portraits to the present time; but will not include the portraits of living persons, or portraits of a miniature character.

3. In regard to Art, the works of inferior painters representing distinguished persons will be admitted; while the acknowledged works of eminent artists will be received, though the portrait is unknown or does not represent a distinguished

4. The portraits of foreigners who have attained eminence or distinction in England will also be included, with portraits by foreign artists which represent persons so distinguished.

5. The Exhibition will be held at South Kensington, in the spacious brick building used for the refreshment rooms of the International Exhibition in 1862; and these galleries, which are perfectly dry, will be fitted up especially for the Exhibition, and patrolled day and night by the police.

All charges for the conveyance of pictures accepted for exhibition by the Committee will be defrayed by the Depart-ment of Science and Art.

7. The Exhibition will be opened early in April, 1866. The portraits, for the purpose of proper arranging and cataloguing, will be received not later than the second week in February; and will be returned at the end of August at the latest; but though the Exhibition will continue open till that time, any owner who requires the return of his contributions at the end of July will have them forwarded to him at once.

8. In accordance with the usual practice, the Science and Art Department, unless the owner objects, will take photographs of such portraits as may be useful for instruction in the Schools of Art, and allow them to be sold in the Museum; but no permission will be granted to any private person to photograph, without the owner's express sanction. Two copies of each photograph taken will be presented to the owner of the picture photographed.

9. As was the case at the Exhibitions of 1851 and 1862 (and as is usual at the Royal Academy and other Exhibitions), the Department cannot be responsible for loss or damage, but every possible care will be taken of works lent; and it may be added that the numerous paintings lent for exhibition in 1862 were collected and returned by the same agency as will now be employed, free from any injury or damage of any kind.

10. All correspondence, marked on the cover "National Portrait Exhibition," should be addressed to the Secretary of the Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum, London, W.

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GOOD NEWS FOR PORT WINE DRINKERS.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER APPEARED IN THE "TIMES" OF THE 24TH INST:-

. To the Editor of the " Times."

Sir,—In an article which lately appeared in the Times, you refer to the practice which largely prevails in Portugal of more or less brandying the wine intended for this market, and you add, "this brandy is added in order to stop fermentation, and to retain a certain amount of sugar in the wine." The apology for this practice consists in the fact that the appearance of the oldium in 1851 necessitated a larger addition of alcohol than heretofore for the preservation of the Wine.

Now that oldium has passed away, and the fruit-bearing of the vine is not disturbed by the appearance of disease, it becomes a matter of some importance to reduce the alcoholic properties of port to a minimum of strength. With this view we have endeavoured to secure ports possessing lightness, purity, and quality, and we have just received a parcel equal to about 1,700 dozen from a well-known "quinta" of the Lower Douro.

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We beg to remain, Sir, your very obedient servants,

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PUBLIC OBSEQUIES.

LL the argument, and reasoning, and A theorizing in the world will not persuade mankind to attach no importance to obituary ceremonies. The world has made progress enough since the days of Abraham, and still the sentiment which induced the patriarch to desire that his bones might be laid in the Cave of Machpelah sooner than in any other equally eligible cavity, is as strong now as it was in the most ancient times. It is indeed a curious reflection that the more civilized a nation becomes, the more enlightened its tone of thought, the more luxurious and refined its mode of life, the more intense becomes its feeling with regard to the pageant of sepulture. Probably there has never been a nation where education of a high class was so general as amidst our own at the present day; and yet there certainly has never been a nation where the obligation to keep up a certain pomp and ceremony at the consignment of the corpse to its last resting-place was recognized so generally and obeyed so implicitly. The Egyptians looked forward to a resurrection in the very flesh which was embalmed. Our ideas, if not more definite on this subject, are, at all events, more spiritualized. The ashes of many great Romans were buried in urns high in the deep blue air of Rome. They were resolved, come what might, that their actual bodies should not be dismembered or disgraced. But the instinct is so universal, that we need not go out of our way to find reasons for it. It must admit of some sound justification, if we could only appreciate it. We have, therefore, no doubt that this sort of idolatry of the mere outward form of humanity has some solid basis of argument which might be pleaded in its defence. No reasonable man, even though he could not tell the "Marseillaise" from "God Save the Queen," would deny that music had a potent influence on the minds of average humanity; and in much the same way, those to whom it seems a matter of absolute and supreme indifference whether their dead bodies are buried in Kensal Green; or chucked into a pit with all the paupers who die on the selfsame day in the "fossi communi" of Naples; or sunk at sea with a cannonball tied to their feet, there to stand upright at the bottom of the ocean, oppressed into rigidity with the weight of the waters; or burnt upon a funeral pile; or made away with in any respectable or disreputable fashion-must still fairly admit that the vast majority of mankind do attach extreme importance to the disposal of their bodies after death, and are practically influenced by the consideration what is to become of their mortal tenements. Throughout the American war, the one universal desire of the Federal soldiers was, that their bodies, if they fell in battle, might be buried in their own States, and amidst their own people. The trade of embalmers became a most lucrative one in connexion with the war, simply and solely from the extraordinary desire of the relatives of the Northern soldiers to get their bodies brought home after death. Even the placid blood of the Danish soldiery was stirred to far greater indignation by a report that the Prussians buried the bodies

of their dead countrymen without funeral obsequies, than by any of the more valid injuries inflicted upon Denmark by the German invasion. However, it is useless to attempt to prove that nineteenth-century civilization has increased rather than diminished the almost morbid sentiment about the disposal of the remains of those we have loved, or known, or honoured. We might as well undertake to prove that hunger and thirst are human attributes, or that our age is distinguished by a passion

for reading. If proof were wanted, it would be found in the circumstances which have attended the death of the great English statesman whose funeral is the one event of the present week. When it was known that Lord Palmerston was to be buried quietly at Romsey Churchyard, there was a general feeling of dissatisfaction. Yet there was much to be said in favour of the place originally proposed. He who ceased to be Premier of England only with his last sigh, had expressed a wish to be buried in the Hampshire village where his father's and mother's bones were placed. Never, too, was there a man with whom pomp, or show, or ceremony of any kind, seemed less consonant. There was nothing, to use a French term-for which we know of no corresponding one in English grandiose about the dead Minister. His tastes and habits and language were simple almost to a fault, and thus it was natural enough that his burial should be, like his life, simple, and plain, and undemonstrative. But somehow or other the English public could not endure the notion that the Prime Minister of England, the man who but yesterday was the greatest in station and power amongst living Englishmen, whose name had been for generations a sort of symbol for English statesmanship—should be consigned to the grave like any unknown country squire or wealthy tradesman. It is the fashion to talk of the differences between different classes of English society. Yet in many respects there is much in common between all persons-high or low, rich or poorwho speak the English tongue. What person interested in the poor but must have known scores of cases where families, not removed above the danger of daily want, have spent the income of weeks, or months, or a year, in order to secure what they considered a decent burial for some relative they loved. And, in accordance with the same instinct, the English public could not rest contented till it learned that Lord Palmerston would be buried with all due state, and pomp, and honour, in Westminster Abbey. So strong was this feeling, that it extinguished all others; and in consequence, the great public funeral of this week was almost forced upon the Government. Little as we sympathize ourselves with the exaggerated importance attached to the question where a man's bones are laid to moulder, we yet admit fully that, in a not altogether vulgar sense, the popular demand for a public funeral was a just one. What estimate posterity may place upon Lord Palmerston is a question which cannot be decided yet, and whose discussion would be out of place in these columns. But this much we may say confidently, that if not a great man he will occupy a great place in English history. To our minds he was rather an Æneas, than an Achilles or a Hector of politics. Of the main

events of his long life he could say with truth, "Quorum pars magna fui," but of none could he say fairly, "Quorum pars maxima." Yet the events were so great in themselves that even to have played an important, though not the first, part in them constitutes a valid claim to greatness. It was right, after all, that where Pitt. and Canning, and Fox are buried, there Pal merston should be interred also. He will bring one more association to that grand old abbey where our men of wit, and learning, and fame, and power, and genius, have been buried, before the consecration of all the cemeteries which line the Appian and the Latin ways of London. We have got a true Pantheon; and it is, on the whole, well that its attractions should be maintained intact. We cannot doubt that many a young man on entering public life has been fired with a desire to attain such fame as shall entitle him to rest within that hallowed fane. It is odd. perhaps, that such a consideration should have any power on the decision grown-up men make as to the life they shall lead, the honours they shall aspire to, the pleasures they shall forego; but still, the fact is so. Moreover, in an age not too much addicted to sentimentalism, it is perhaps well that this superstition, if you like to call it so, about the resting-places of the dead should be cherished and maintained. Whether your bones are enclosed in a stone mausoleum or a wooden shell, must be a matter of indifference to thinking men; but, as long as mankind attack a value to funeral rites, it is well that those who are worthy of honour should have paid to them at their deaths the houours of a stately burial. But yet, somehow, though we deem these

public funerals necessary, and perhaps useful, their details jar strangely upon our English taste. Our British nature assimilates itself badly to occasions of public display. We can never act our parts, or assist, to use the continental phrase, at a funeral with satisfaction to ourselves or others. These things undoubtedly they manage better in France. It is possible the feelings of Frenchmen may not be as deep as those of Englishmen. At any rate we always assume this to be the case. But unques tionably they show their feelings more deeply at the appropriate moment. There are few men who have attained any sort of position in England who are not compelled from time to time to attend the funerals of colleagues, or of men in their own pursuits of life, with whom they were on terms of acquaintance. Anything more dreary than such cere-monials cannot well be conceived. It is impossible, indeed, it should be otherwise. If Jones dies, Smith and Brown, who met him on business, dined with him twice a-year, and nodded to him if they met him in the street, cannot be expected to feel or show profound grief, because their acquaintance is interrupted by death. And what Jones was to Smith and Brown, Lord Palmerston must have been to the vast majority of those who attended his funeral. The dead man himself had attended so many such ceremonies; he knew so well the conversation that goes on on such occasions, the impatience to get the matter over, and the coldness with which the parting words are listened to, not to prefer a more quiet funeral, where only those who really knew and loved him should stand around his grave. However

it was not so to be; and Lord Palmerston himself would have been the first to say, that if the nation wishes its great men to be buried at Westminster, there, and not elsewhere, they ought to lie.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE ODYSSEY OF HOMER.

The Odyssey of Homer, Rendered into English Blank Verse. By George Musgrave, M.A., Brasenose College, Oxford. (Bell & Daldy.)

when it may not be altogether absurd to make a division of all men into two classes—namely, those who have translated Homer, and those who have not translated Homer. The first division must, of course, always remain a very small one; and yet it contains a sufficient number of individuals to make it very desirable for everyone to ponder well, before he leaves his blameless and unobtrusive position among the large majority of non-translators, to increase the number of the minority who are translators. Certainly, no positive want exists to justify the proceeding.

The older English versions of the Odyssey are, to say the least of them, respectable; and areader unable to cope with the poem in the original could not fail to derive a fair notion of it from any one of them. If more than this is desired—and the desire is a most laudable one-it may now be obtained in Mr. Worsley's recent translation, in which the stanza of Spenser has been most happily and successfully employed as the form for largely reproducing the beauty and truth of the Greek. Of the existence of this version, as well as of that of the Dean of Canterbury, the present translator does not appear to be aware. At any rate, he makes no allusion to it in his somewhat rambling and gossipping, but unpretentious preface. Probably, however, the greater part, if not the whole of Mr. Musgrave's task was completed before the publication of Worsley's picturesque and faithful poem-for poem it deserves to be called, although it is the reflection of another's work, and not an original exercise of thought.

It would be unreasonable, however, to expect that previous occupation of the field should deter fresh candidates for public fame from entering the lists, especially at a time when Homeric translation is so much in fashion, and is occupying so much attention, as it does at present. There is great satisfaction, too, in contemplating the state of a country which, like England, can show a class in which wealth and ease do not end in nothing but luxury and idleness-a class which, in advancing life, does not forget the classic studies of its academic youth, but can continue them with increasing delight, finding in them the highest intellectual pleasure, and sometimes the best antidote against physical pain. This last-mentioned virtue which seems to lie in the translation of Homer, has, we regret to learn, been in request by his latest translator; for he, like Lord Derby, is a victim to Podagra, and has sometimes found the turning of a Greek hexameter into English decasyllables as good or better than a dose of colchicum; and proved the Sove-reign of Poets to be the strongest antagonist to the tyrannous usage of the Queen of Dis-

The work of translation has, indeed, an irresistible fascination. It is good to hold the mind in long and constant contact of the closest kind with the thoughts and words of some great master of a language not our own. The duty of finding an English equivalent for the spirit, and, if it be possible, for the body of the original, compels the most attentive study of the author, and also the deepest investigation of all the resources of the vernacular. More will be thus learned of both tongues than in any other way; and the translator, at the end of his labour, will probably find that he has enriched his own English vocabulary more plentifully than if the same time had been spent by him in original composition in his own language. There

can be no doubt that the private profit and pleasure of translation are great.

The task of rendering a great poem into English is of a kind to give all the interest of a long journey during its progress, and to secure a feeling of satisfaction, mingled with a pleasing regret, upon arriving at its termination. Its conclusion within a reasonable time may be looked forward to with certainty, and each day's travel may be measured to suit individual ability and convenience. When it is completed, and frequently as we imagine not until then, the question arises—What is to be done with it? The applause of a select circle of friends seems an insufficient recompense. And even that is hardly to be obtained without resorting to the printing-press —for where is the friendship to be met with that will read through twenty-four books of an Epic poem in manuscript? The pleasure of the work has been enjoyed, and is exhausted. Scire tuum nihil est, nisi te scire hoc, sciat alter. There is only one way in which the past pleasure can be renewed, and the accumulated treasure exhibited for admiration. It goes to press—the correction of the proof-sheets perhaps supplies an enjoyment even surpassing that of the production of the copy-it becomes a book-it is published—and there is one more English translation in the field.

This sketch of the history of many a translation does not, however, seem applicable in all its features to that of the two handsome volumes now before us. Their producer has thought (as he tells us) of utility to others, as well as of improvement and amusement for himself. He believes that a new version of the Odyssey may be useful in the nineteenth century to the rising mass of "middle-class scholars," who may be presumed to have a taste-or whose taste, at least, should be encouraged-for the best works in literature, which cannot in their case be gratified from the originals. A claim is, therefore, made of having "befriended this novus ordo in the literary commonwealth," and of having had "some rational motives for beginning and ending a work which, if it had novelty alone to commend it, and aimed not mainly at usefulness, might as well have never been essayed."

We cannot allow ourselves the gratification of believing that these commendable intentions have been realized. There is no exhibition of any of the more recent criticism, or freshly-acquired knowledge of the East, which should make a nineteenth century version of the Odyssey more lifelike and useful than the older ones. The new translation, indeed, has the merit of being tolerably fluent and readable. The lines are correct to the ear, but are monotonous, and totally deficient in the variety and rhythm which is now looked for in the blank verse which aspires to be poetry, and is not satisfied with being printed in lengths of ten syllables, that will scan and look like it. It is more literal than Pope; but not so close to the original, or so true to it, as Cowper. The extent to which the Greek has been amplified and diluted-to some degree, no doubt, a necessity, as claimed in the preface-may be judged by comparing the number of lines in the first six books with those in Cowper's version and in Homer :-

Musgrave. Cowper. Homer. 709 ... 564 ... 444 Book I. Book II. 434 691 553 *** Book III..... ... 497 809 624 ... Book 1V..... 1,351 1,028 847 ... *** Book V. 492 598 Book VI.... ... 331 409 514

But the unavoidable limits of extension have been far exceeded. Why, for instance, should the two words ήεροειδέα πόντον (B. II. v. 431) be enlarged to—

Marked with the shadows of the passing clouds?
Why should Book III. commence with the

Now did the sun, the beauteous lake saline Of ocean leaving, to the brazen vault Of heav'n on high soar upward? where one line and a-half of the Greek is turned into nearly three lines of the English, and Homer's περικαλλέα λίμνην is diluted into the not very beauteous saline mixture of the translation.

An instance of the way in which the profuse multiplication of words enfeebles and destroys the truthfulness and simplicity of Homer may be seen in the description where we "have sight of Proteus rising from the sea," in Book IV. (Musgrave v. 637; Homer v. 400):—

Whene'er the sun his midway course completes And reaches central sky, this truthful seer, "The Old Man of the Sea," from ocean wave His form reveals emergent, while the spray, From the dark rippling stirr'd by Western airs, Around him rises; and, the dry land gain'd, In some deep cave's recess he sinks to sleep. Fair Halosydna's offspring,—the sea-calves,-In thronging numbers all around him lie, His slumber sharing. From white ocean's wave They, too, their forms upheave, and noxious scents From the abysses of the deep exhale. E'en to this spot, when orient light shall dawn, Will I conduct thee, and in order apt
Thine ambush set: do thou, thyself, meanwhile, From all the crew that on thy well-bench'd ship Are best approv'd, choose, with discretion, three: But, first, in all the tricky, startling wiles Of this "Old Man" I must enlighten thee. The sea-calves, first, will he begin to count And carefully inspect; and when the tale He has completed, and the herd review'd, He in the midst therefore will lay him down As would a shepherd in a flock of sheep: And, when in slumber thou shalt see him sunk, With all thy might and vigour strain and strive There toretain him; struggle as he may On instant flight intent; for, this t' effect, He will all shapes assume :- Whatever things Move on earth's surface,—water!—and the flames That supernat'ral flash! will he become: But, hold him fast, unmov'd :- and more and more Compression use: Yet, when himself again Restor'd, with language he shall thee accost, In form the same as when thou sawest him In slumber wrapt, then, noble youth! relax That grip severe, and set the "Old Man" free: And bid him tell thee which, of all the gods, Thy life is thus embitt'ring; bid him say How thou shalt homeward speed, and voyage make O'er the fish-teeming sea.

As it has been observed of Shakspeare that he has drawn his Caliban and similar characters in such a way as to compel the belief that if such existences could be, they must be such as he has made them; so it may be said of Homer, that he has, by force of adherence to nature, when he is describing it, made his supernatural additions seem as truthful as the realities with which they are associated. But this charm is lost in translation which sacrifices the original for the sake of turning its own lines with the greater facility afforded by loose amplification, and by the introduction of epithets and allusions not to be discovered in the Greek.

The romantic and adventurous character of the Odyssey, and so many of its scenes, always invite comparison between it and the mos familiar collection of Oriental tales, but do not justify such a transference from it as is made in this passage. Homer calls Proteus "the veracious old man of the sea;" but the translation has "this truthful seer, The Old Man of the Sea," where, for the sake of yielding to a recollection of the Arabian Nights, the thoughts of the readers are carried away from Homer and Proteus, to Sinbad the Sailor and his troublesome old marine acquaintance. It is an offence against art to attempt to force resemblance into identityand the resemblance in the present case is one of name only. Then, why is the μελάινη φρικί (duly Englished in Liddell and Scott as "the dark ripple") to have its quiet and tender beauty spoiled by the false addition of "spray," and the whole truth and repose of the description destroyed?

In a somewhat earlier part of the same book (B. IV. 359), there are some lines which not only are unduly expanded, but also misrepresent the original to the extent of making nonsense of it. Homer has—

ίητρὸς δὲ ἔκαστος ἐπιστάμενος περὶ πάντων ἄνθρώπων' ἢ γὰρ Παιήονος ἐισὶ γενέθλης. which becomes-

In that land All those who in the healing art are train'd Their fellow-subjects in all skill surpass; And they of Pœon's generation are;

the passage being perfectly easy, and the meaning being, as given by Cowper:—

There every man in skill medicinal Excels, for they are sons of Poeon all.

In other places one has to complain of such renderings as "sound good sense" for the φρένας ἐσθλάς which constituted one of the excellencies of Penelope. Or such a phrase as occurs in the last of the following lines (B. II. 292):

Go to! old man!

Hence to thy home, and to thy little ones
Prognostics utter, lest, by some mischance,
They, at some future day, should come to grief.

Or a poetical epithet of frequent use, turned into "words that wing'd appear'd to leave her lips," which can only mean that the words were actually seen to take their way from the mouth by the help of some kind of flying apparatus. Or the very prosaic expression of the danger in which the suitors might stand from the vengeance of Telemachus (B. II. v. 531):—

His wish
May haply bear him to the fertile soil
Of Ephyre, that hence (?—thence) he may import
Its fatal poisons, steep them in a cup,
And thus effect the murder of us all.

The end of Book III. is not ill turned, but there is the unfortunate occurrence of a rhyme:—

Then, when Aurora, offspring of the dawn, With roseate fingers orient re-appear'd, The steeds again they coupled, and themselves The ornate car ascended; from the porch And corridor out rushing:—then anew The charioteer with thong the coursers lash'd To urge their pace, and, nothing loth, the twain Dash'd on apace, and to that fertile plain Whose harvest is of wheat at length they came; And there the journey ended: with such speed Did those fleet creatures fly. But now the sun Went down; and every road in darkness lay.

In Book IX. the point of the story of Ulysses and the Cyclops is spoiled by using "No One" as the rendering of OYTIX: as it is difficult to conceive "No One" as standing for a proper name. Cowper loses it altogether, by declining to translate the word, and has—

My name is Outis; Outis I am called At home, abroad, wherever I am known.

Pope and Worsley have "Noman," which may pass muster as an English name; and Shelley in "The Cyclops" has "Nobody"—"Mr. Nobody" is not bad English. Here, too, we may remark that καμπυλα τόξα is not "bended bows;" nor αἰγανέας δολιχάυλους "darts with iron sockets." We may also note the infelicity of translating χαλκέυς in its primary meaning in the lines:—

And e'en as when some coppersmith has plung'd In icy stream a large-siz'd adze or axe, Which with resounding noise is heard to hiss As he the metal tempers, for on this Depends the iron's strength, &c.

The well-known passage containing the meeting with the shade of Ajax in Book XI. is rendered thus:—

I spake, and, as I ceas'd, the airy shade Of the swift-footed son of Æacus At once withdrew, through meads of asphodel Wide striding, and in spirit all elate At hearing of my witness to the fame Of his illustrious son. And then, behold! Full many another soul of the great dead Lamenting stood before me, each in turn His tale of woe recounting. But, the shade Of Ajax, son of Telamon, aloof And at far distance hover'd, still irate, Upon that triumph brooding which I won When, at the moorings of our fleet, the strife For great Achilles' arms between us rose. Thetis, his venerable mother, these For our contention proffer'd; but the sons Of Trojan race and Pallas made th' award, Would that in such a contest I had ne'er The vict'ry gained! but for that panoply Ne'er had this earth on such a hero clos'd As Ajax was, who both in manly form And gallant deeds next to the faultless son Of Peleus all the chiefs of Greece surpass'd.

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With gentle speech I thus accosted him :-"O Ajax! son of Telamon the Good! Yearns not thine heart, now that among the dead Thou movest only, to forget the wrath 'Gainst me excited for the single sake Of that pernicious armour? For, the gods Into the bane of Greece converted it. For thou, thy country's tower of defence, To death succumb'dst; and each surviving Greek That death deplor'd with sorrow as intense As for Achilles, son of Peleus, mourn'd. No mortal man this evil wrought; but Jove With bitter grudge the host of armed Greece Incessantly pursued, and upon thee Thy fatal doom impos'd. But now, O king! Drawnigh and hear my voice, and heed my words." paus'd, but answer none did he vouchsafe; But, into Erebus 'mid other shades Of the defunct pass'd onward: and from thence, However anger'd, might he speech have sought, Or I with him convers'd, but for the wish Within me deep implanted to behold The shades of other dead.

We marvel at the want of ear which could tolerate such a word as "succumb'dst;" and while submitting the extract to the judgment of our readers as a fair specimen of the whole translation, we must say that it exhibits no power of grasping the original, and little skill in dealing with the fresh language in which it is to be clothed.

The execution of the work appears to be uniform throughout, and we give, as a concluding extract, a part of the account of the slaughter of the suitors, from the last book:

Not one of us the string Of that stout bow could draw; for, far too weak We all were prov'd: but when Ulysses' turn To handle that stupendous weapon came, We with one voice against the swineherd rail'd And bade him not deliver it, though much Telemachus insisted: but, alone The youth prevail'd and his command enforced. Then did the great Ulysses with his hands That weapon grasp: with ease the bow he bent, And through the rings of steel the arrow shot. Then, to the threshold springing, up he stood And, with terrific glances, dart on dart Among our band sent flying, and the prince Antinous killed : aye-and with truest aim, Those deadly shafts upon the rest he pour'd, And suitor upon suitor fell around! Most manifest it was that in that hour Some one of the immortals was his aid Immediate granting: for, with swift pursuit, The palace through, upon our band they press'd, On ev'ry side down hewing us, till moans Most piteous and a bellow most uncouth From smitten men arose, upon whose skulls The death-stroke fell; and all the pavement

Was with the carnage reeking. By such doom, O royal Agamemnon, died we all,
Whose corses, at this hour, within the walls
Of prince Ulysses' palace lie; of rites
Funereal depriv'd;—for, not as yet
Have those who lov'd us in their sev'ral homes
Of this our fatal ending heard; the friends
Who, having from our wounds the clotted blood
Lav'd and remov'd, would on the bier their slain
Have duly laid, and their bereavement wail'd:
The last of honour which the dead can know.

IRISH LACE-MAKERS.

The Lace-makers: Sketches of Irish Character; with some Account of the Effort to Establish Lacemaking in Ireland. By Mrs. Meredith. (Jackson, Walford & Hodder.)

MRS. MEREDITH brings to a labour of love a true Catholic spirit, which cannot fail to enlist the sympathies of all who seek to ameliorate the condition of the very poor of Ireland by legitimate means. This spirit is sure to be responded to by those whom it is sought to benefit no less then by statesmen and philanthropists; for surely it is a great blessing conferred, to have opened up new fields of industry and remunerative labour, congenial to the tastes of a people so imaginative as the Irish, who have an utter dislike to all work that is merely mechanical and uncontrollable by fancy, or has a price fixed which cannot be unsettled by any manœuvring.

"I likes the crochet best, ma'am," said a girl, "because there's hope in it. I may get ever so much for what I makes, if I happen to hit on a new stitch, and all the time I'm at it, I don't

know but I may have a lot of money coming to me, and I'm kep in spirits like, to the last moment; but that pillow-work—och, 'tis horrid ma'am! you're made sinsible from the beginning that you're only to get the trifle of a price, no more nor no less, and no thoughts will help you, you must go on with the thing to your ordthers, which is what I won't do, until I can't help it, plase God!"

"Make an Irishman rich," says Mrs. Meredith, "and you denationalize him at once, and for ever; you take the heart out of him: he is no longer the unadulterated representative of old Erin. To know the Irish poor is to know Ireland." In the introduction to the tales and the appendix we get a pretty clear notion of the causes that have brought about the decline of those laceschools, which were called into existence when famine ravaged Ireland in 1847. "The female children of the poor all over the land became the subject of instruction (by ladies) in making up of various articles for sale. At first this was done with a very indefinite purpose, but the productions were kindly welcomed, and a great demand promoted the industrial effort." In 1851 the Census showed a return of 902 pupils in the various arts of crochet laces, point lace (the highest development of crochet), pillow lace, lace running, embroidery, sewed-muslin work, plain sewing, knitting and tatting; but the extent of the diffusion of needlework far exceeded this return. When men could not work, the fingers of little girls were busy with the lace work, and ladies generously came forward with their rich mediæval patterns of old point and guipures, and uniting for the common weal, gave their time and thoughts to the formation of schools and the organization of labour.

Mrs. Hand, the wife of the rector of the parish of Clones, threw her whole energies into the task of teaching little girls to crochet, and soon her school "assumed the formidable proportions of a large mercantile concern." Overwhelmed by it, in 1854 she was upon the point of giving up the undertaking, but her lace-makers, in a touching letter, which is given at length, induced her to remain at her post, until some four or five years after. when, compelled to withdraw, "she induced an accomplished lady, who had been trained in the best schools of art, to settle in Clones, and to undertake the business for her own benefit." The Clones School and Mrs. Meredith's Adelaide School at Cork were the latest to give up, but "the hands" of the Adelaide School, turning all at once to the inferior sorts of lace, "the production of any of the better kinds is now attended with an expense that absorbs the profits." The coarse grotesque-looking fabric which replaced the delicate tracery that the "hooked needle" had elaborated, the fashions quickly discarded, but at the expense of the more valuable article, the demand for which fell off in consequence of the bad name which the former brought down upon Irish manufacture. Indeed, Irish point declined in public favour as well as the sewed muslin manufacture, and upon an appeal being made to Her Majesty to favour Irish point with her royal patronage, "the Queen very properly suggested in her reply that the art should be better cultivated, and directed that the best instructions and the newest patterns should be sent for to France for the purpose." In 1850 a Normal Lace School in Dublin, "for teaching girls to make pillow-laces, Valenciennes, Maltese, and English," was established by the Ladies' Irish Industrial Society. A good house was taken for the school, and "teachers were brought from Belgium and England." The story of Ellen Harrington illustrates the pro-ficiency to be attained in lace manipulation by the culture of the art of designing connected with it. In the Kensington School of Art Ellen Harrington "went through the whole curriculum of the Government School of Design," and "became an artist and a lady, her drawing entitling her to certificates and allowances of money to pursue her student life." It is a new reading to us to find that in the hands of even a

were the pencil of a painter. With some it is a simple matter of imitative necessity, with others a poem wrought with passion, and like the climate of the island "half sunshine half tears," a mingled tale of smiles and somow. Stitches belong to districts. The mode of working in one place cannot be taught in another, to produce quite the same effect.

In combination the stitches formed a pattern, and this pattern became a picture, and this picture was nothing more nor less than the characteristics of the neighbourhoods, as they appeared to the eye of the maker. Here, in the small matter of crochet lace, the conception of the mind through the vision was developed in natural order. Crochet was topographical, and described its birthplace with a surprising accuracy. That produced in the boggy districts was full of minute fibrous interlacery; and the specimens from the mountainous rocky places had a peculiar style, which displayed some notion of cubic proportions; while the pieces fabricated in the soft, damp, watery places of the green, fresh vegetative south, were overrun with flowers and foliage of the most luxuriant variety.

Fashion kindles invention and industry; demand creates supply in all articles of There is a life and decorative attire. beauty in the stitch formed by the human hand, to which neither the loom nor the sewing-machine can attain; there is as great a distinction between these, as there is between a finished miniature and a commonplace photograph. As soon as machinery steps in, a cheap imitation gluts the market, and the fashion declines. Polka knitting, Shetland shawls, Irish point, and sewed maslin, all, at first sources of wealth in woman's hands, have shared the same fate; yet the clever division of labour, which the tale of Mary Desmond illustrates, furnishes proof of the suitability of Irish point to spread over a wide surface of more or less skilled artizans the benefits of a healthy and increasing trade. Mary Desmond, a peasant girl, who was early received in the Carriginis Lace School, had an intuitive perception of what was required to be done, and generally, after a few hours of patient and laborious application, handed in a "bit" of beautiful proportions and exquisite needlework, the stitches being chosen with a fine sense of suitability, and the character of the "study" being admirably preserved.

The "bit" stock, from which laces were made, had the effect of producing goods rapidly, as by dividing the patterns into sections, and getting the different portions made by several hands at the same time, abundance of material was ready to be formed into any new combination, which a tasteful designer might select. We are told in the appendix, that there is a stitch peculiar to the women of Lower Normandy, in the province of Calvados, called Rucroe; which is used to join together the flowers and scrolls of lace that are made on pillows, and is of the same character as crochet "barring," the means by which the "bits,"

in Irish point, are united.

The old race of Ireland wants something from its legislators. Its women beg for a boon that by the sacred right which entitles those to help who help themselves! So far forth as they were able, they have tried to exercise their talents. They have not ineglected the gift of embroidery and all needlework, which was in them since the far back age, in which the beautiful Eimer was courted by the Ulster champion Cuchulainn. This noble lady was found by her suitor engaged in giving instruction in such arts; and if any learned Irishian will translate and publish the minute description of a lady's dress, contained in the story of the "Courtship of the Woman of Little Dowry," who was sought in marriage by a monarch of Erin in the sixth century, it will be seen that, in those days, no small amount of cultivation was bestowed on the manufactures, to which our countrywomen are still addicted. It is far from uninteresting, to know that we have such an instance to show of the persistence of tastes and pursuits among the various races of people in this island. In the case of crochet Bee, this is to be particularly remarked. Quite

distinct from the pillow laces, the common property of many mixed families, crochet is not imitative in its manipulation, it has had no formula or models to copy from, no foreign forerunners to take pattern by, and yet it took its place in the land; avoiding the small portions of the country where the other sorts of lace prevail, and maintaining its distance from sewed muslin and from other kinds of needlework, it stands the representative of an inherent power in an old stock. The Spaniards used it for some of their ornamental work, and this favours the report of its Milesian ancestry; but, with or without a pedigree, and in conjunction with all other manufactures in which the female population of Ireland have employed themselves, we commend it to the consideration of the guardians of pauper girls, and the educators of the working classes in that country. Give Irishwomen special training for their peculiar faculties, and there can be no reason why Ireland should not be, in the British dominions, what Vosges, Ypres, Malines, and Valence, are in their respective

The tales themselves are pleasantly told; but they are only the means of awaking attention to a subject which the author has at heart. "The events they narrate are facts, but the plots are fictitious. Names of persons and places are suppressed, and the tales are supplied from various sources." We cannot lay the book aside without heartly thanking Mrs. Meredith for having placed in our hands the contents of what might have formed an important Parliamentary Blue Book, free from all the dry wide-of-the-mark details which make official publications sealed books to all but the initiated.

RELIGIOUS POEMS AND RELIGIOUS ROMANCES.

The Two Worlds; or, Here and Hereafter. An Epic in Five Books. By W. Howell. (Simpkin and Marshall.)

Sursum; or, Sparks Flying Upward; By the Rev. H. A. Rawes, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge. (Longmans.)

The Pillar of Fire; or, Israel in Bondage. By the Rev. J. H. Ingraham. (Virtue Brothers & Co.)

WE were wrong in supposing that religious epics had ceased. Mr. Howell commenced one, he tells us, as a pastime, and possibly some parts of it, at least, as a joke. Instead of the orthodox twelve books, we have only five; but the author declares that his trumpet, at all events, "gives no uncertain sound." And, as he confesses to laughing at man's follies, he must not complain if we class the publication of "Here and Hereafter" as one of them—duly remembering, however, to follow his example throughout, and "pity his sorrows" also. It is, we know, very presumptuous to criticise an author who is enabled to speak thus of himself:—

I, Revelation, now resume my place, As thy instructor;

but we are bound to say this state of things did not last very long, for, a little lower down, the poet finds he has undertaken too much, and

> Again, O Revelation! now I seek Thy further aid!

As may be gathered from the title, the end of the world is one of the interludes, and is thus described:—

Earth flies amain; heaven rolls away. Their noise is great—their bruit is spread. The mighty Gabriel hears;

-(as, indeed, he cannot very well fail to do)-

The books are opened; each Beholds his own, writ by himself, &c.

We have often heard that no man was ever written down except by himself, but this is a terrible proof of that axiom.

All things are new: the sea has disappeared, For, as a type of death, it finds no place.

But when the Millennium has well set in, it seems to come back very unaccountably, for

The earth is glad; the sea its roar keeps up; Its fulness brings, in happy industry.

However, after Satan's final outbreak, it really does go away for good—

No gallant ship is seen; eternal day Has dawned, and night has fled away.

These two lines are meant to be blank verse of the ordinary length. Our author lisps in numbers sometimes, but he is quite unconscious of doing so. The idea of the Millennium is thoroughly business- and Cumming-like. Everything is to go on much in the same way that it does now; indeed, it is to be to heaven something of what purgatory is to hell. Pleasure is on her trial, as it were; she "her garland throws around the well-set limbs of labouring swains;" she "keeps high court," and "intones its services." The heavenly band is thus described:—

Lo! harps of God, ne'er out of tune; their strings

Are fingered by immortal hands, and chord Well with the trump of God.

Mr. Howell does not mean, we are sure, to be profane, but this last line does in fact represent the Almighty as blowing his own trumpet. What for, only he who "instructs Revelation" can possibly tell!

Then we meet with the lost spirits, as may be supposed; and they hold a debate, but it is at the end of the poem. They seem to have got into a much more uncomfortable position than when we first made their acquaintance in Milton. They are now lodged in the centre of the earth, along with the wicked. But we have no room for their speeches. They make a hole in what we facetiously call the earth's crust, and are on the point of escaping, when—the Millennium is "up," and everybody departs finally to his own place.

"Sursum" is not an epic—indeed, half of it is in prose; but the poem of "Mary" aims at epical dignity. It appears to be a sort of catalogue, for the most part, of those the author thinks have been already released from purgatory, or never had to pass

through it.

From Adam downward, all the saints are there; and each is ticketed off in this wise:—

There Noe dwells, At rest beyond the flood.

As he did this for a considerable time on this sublunary globe, it can be no novelty to him in heaven. This is the first time we ever heard that

Joseph kept his raiment undefiled In sinful Egypt.

On the contrary, we always thought that was precisely the "little affair" that remained in the hands of Potiphar's wife. The author has a singular taste for calling everybody "Virgin." A dim remembrance of some of the more striking passages in the life of David does, indeed, prevent that epithet being applied to him; but there is surely no authority for calling Abel, Melchisedech, and Joshua, Virgin-martyrs and warriors. Melchisedech's father and mother, it is true, are not recorded, but that is quite another matter.

A very different composition is "The Pillar of Fire." Religious romances are much more successful things than religious poems. The latter must always embrace no inconsiderable amount of theology; the former may be content with only the skeleton of Biblical history, and, without offending the devotion or taste of anyone, may modify the received narrative into the shape best adapted to convey the moral of the story. This is a very ingenious specimen of the religious novel. The form, that of a tale told in letters, is not perhaps the most attractive; but it would have been difficult to introduce the minute descriptions of Egypt, which is one of the author's principal objects, by any other device.

Sesostris, Prince of Tyre, visits Egypt, about forty years before the first public appearance of Moses as leader of the Hebrews, and in his letters to his mother, Epiphia, the wonders of Egypt, then in all its glory,

are detailed at length. To judge of the probable accuracy of this guide-book to ancient Egypt would require as deep and conscientious a study as the author himself has bestowed upon the subject. Egypt offers peculiar facilities for a panoramic reconstruction. The climate, the main features of the country, and much of the ancient architecture, have been little changed for thousands of years. The inner life of the Egyptians is well known also. The chief difficulties in a story which is to comprise the Exodus, are chronological and dynastic; but the very discrepancies of the old annalists, and the simplicity of the Mosaic account, leave it open to a reverential novelist to construct a most interesting plot, which may violate neither scriptural certainties nor historical probabilities. Sesostris finds the Queen Amense on the throne, and is cordially received by her and Remeses, her son and heir. The latter is a man of a most exalted character, in all respects with ideas far above the superstitions of Egypt. Sesostris is much interested in the condition of the Hebrews, who are just becoming an object of apprehension to their masters. He consults Remeses about them, who is willing to do all in his power to assist, but is placed in a difficult position, owing to the restrictions which the priesthood and the inflexible customs of Egypt cast even about the throne.

Their long conversations and speculations about religion and history are interrupted by the outbreak of a war with Ethiopia, which brings on the stage Prince Mœris, nephew of the Queen. He is a man of a thoroughly Egyptian type—mysterious, designing, and ambitious. But for the birth of Remeses, which happened shortly after the death of Amense's husband, he would be next in succession to the crown. He has always looked upon Remeses as an intruder, and makes no secret of his disappointment. By some means, he has discovered the private history of certain passages in the earlier part of the Queen's life, and has extorted, under the threat of revealing them to Remeses, powers and concessions never before accorded to a subject. The more, however, he obtains, the more he desires, and will at last be content with nothing else than the promise of a share of the crown on the Queen's death. His duties as generalissimo call him to Ethiopia, and during his absence Amense resolves to abdicate in favour of Remeses, and so secure for her son the undivided sovereignty. Accordingly, the preparations are commanded, and Remeses retires to the subterranean temples in which the novitiate of an Egyptian king must be accomplished. For forty days these rites and trials continue; but before their termination, both Mœris and Remeses become possessed of the fatal secret. What it is, and the result, we recommend our readers to discover from the book itself.

Forty years elapse between the first and the third part. During the interval, we are introduced to Job, from whom M ceives the materials for his history of the creation, and composes it in the wilderness. Then the scene is Egypt again, but Remeses and Mœris are gone. Perhaps this part is not so well done, but the difficulties are much greater. The precision of the Biblical narrative leaves little scope for the imagination. Still, the natural reasons for what is called the hardening of Pharaoh's heart are fairly insinuated. We cannot help thinking that Mr. Ingraham has not sufficiently remembered the position Moses must formerly have held at the Court of Egypt, in which he had been brought up, with which Pharaoh-Hophra could not but be thoroughly acquainted. This might have given opportunity for some striking episodes, in which the young Tyrian prince, Remeses, so called after his father's old friend, might have borne a part. Perhaps, however, the story is already long enough, and the author judged rightly in hastening to the catastrophe, especially as it was one which could not be altered from the received account.

Mr. Ingraham has managed to combine an unimpeachable orthodoxy with great stores

of learning and display of imagination, and the story of Remeses, the son of Amense, will have a wide and lasting popularity.

FRENCH FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Le Paupérisme et les Associations de Prévoyance. By Émile Laurent. Ouvrage couronné par l'Institut. Second edition. (Guillaumin, Paris.)

THE author of these volumes has proposed to himself a task of great extent and difficulty, and has executed it with marked success. The present condition of the labouring classes, their needs, their aspirations, their tendencies, and the broad features of their life, both domestic and industrial, are viewed with reference to the various methods employed for improving their condition, and the forms in which they are enabled to exercise habits of forethought in the widest sense of the word. In England, where provident institutions grow up by the force of circumstances, and are regulated by the caprice of Parliament, we may learn a great deal from M. Laurent's philosophical and exhaustive treatise.

In tracing the character and extent of the evil which societies for mutual help are best qualified to remedy, M. Laurent draws an accurate distinction between poverty and pauperism, and also points out distinctions which are the creation of locality. Thus, what an English operative would consider a position of privation would be looked upon as one of opulence by his Irish brother; while a material difference between the condition of the English and that of the French workman in relation to their employers arises from the fact that in France the proportion of masters employing a large number of hands is relatively much smaller than in England. Everywhere, however, the primary and radical cause of indigence, misery, and pauperism is improvidence-a word which implies a whole aggregation of evil habits, vice, recklessness, and moral weakness.

If improvidence be the cause of the mischief, it is clear that charities, whether private or public, are at best but palliatives, and very weak ones, doing often more harm than good, for they leave no lesson of providence behind them for the future. The failure of our own Poor Laws in diminishing pauperism affords abundant evidence of this. Savings Banks, again, and enterprises of similar character, however valuable to a certain extent, are merely the most rudimentary form of provident institutions. It is in mutual association among the working classes themselves that a much more decisive and more summary remedy is to be found. Individual action, even accompanied by error, is worth infinitely more than any form of State providence. Let the operatives initiate and keep under their own control, as far as may be, the institutions that are to improve their condition. Let it be the office of the State, and of those whose social position, or whose acquaintance with the subject, entitles them to be heard upon it, to prevent the societies from falling into error, or to help them out of it, by spreading abroad among them a knowledge of sound principles of management, and by expounding the mathematical requisites for success. If honorary members will render this intellectual assistance, Friendly Societies may be made the means of overcoming hostility between class and class, wherever it happens to exist. Such societies afford the best of all teaching—that of example. They not only secure to the working man, by the sacrifice of a small portion of his wages, an efficient resource against sickness, old age, and poverty, but also inculcate a moral lesson by the family spirit they develop, and create a sort of obligation to good and honourable conduct in life.

As there is nothing new under the sun, so Friendly Societies are in a great measure the spontaneous working out of principles which have always been in operation. Though M. Laurent takes occasion to smile at the claims of our English Oddfellows and Foresters to a fabulous antiquity, dating back in the former case to the fifty-fifth year

of the Christian era, yet he quotes with approval a dictum of a brother political economist of Paris, M. Hubbard, that Friendly Societies are not the work of any man or of any power; that they appear in the history of civilization as a necessary product of the labour of ages. He finds the germ of them in a Law of the Twelve Tables, as regards Greece; and in the colleges founded by Numa, at Rome; in the guilds of ancient Scandinavia; and in the similar associations which existed in France during the Middle Ages. Though the principle on which these latter were founded owed its existence to the need which the workmen and tradesmen felt of some means of resisting the exactions and oppressions of the lards of the soil, yet it had other very valuable applications. M. Laurent quotes at length, from the regulations of many of those guilds and brotherhoods which are still extant, clauses showing the conditions of morality and good conduct imposed upon the members, and the application of the funds to the relief of those in sickness or distress. Under the name of Companionage, a species of Freemasonry among operatives still exists in France, but it is subject to grave defeats, considered as a provident institution, and to the operation of causes which have greatly diminished its influence and numbers. In what measure these several historical predecessors of the existing Friendly Societies have contributed to its present organization, our author confesses himself unable to decide, but he holds that they have all had their share.

Passing on, however, to the existing aspect of these associations, we have already had the pleasure to notice (Reader, August 12, 1865), M. Laurent's admirable views in respect to friendly societies in England, as well as in a previous article (Reader, December 31, 1864) to give some particulars of the condition of those in Belgium. In many other parts of the Continent they are numerous and flourishing. In France, between 1852 and 1863, the number of societies increased from 2,438, to 4,721; the members from 270,000, to 680,000; and their funds from 400,000l., to 1,400,000l. (sterling). In Russia, on the contrary, the system of serfdom, which till recently existed, has prevented the exercise of provident habits, for while each lord was, so to speak, responsible for the existence of his peasants, they neither would nor could provide for themselves.

The legislation on Friendly Societies in France is contained in a law of July 15, 1850, which created the distinction between those societies which are and are not recognized as establishments of public utility, and an organic decree, embodying the details of management and somewhat altering the original law, of March 26, 1852. In England, as we know, the legislative enactments exhibit all the eccentricity which Parliament seems to rejoice in displaying when it gets hold of a subject affecting the industrial classes. In the spirit, however, of legislation, M. Laurent thinks, and he is probably right, that there is little real difference between that of England, France, and Belgium on this subject. The two latter are almost identical. The interference of legislation in England in the matter of Friendly Societies is quite abnormal; and in France it is much less than in most things, so that in principle the two systems of legislation nearly balance each other. The best advice that can be given to both is to let the execution of the law in practice be as forbearing as possible. The legal decisions with regard to Friendly Societies in France do not appear to have been either important or numerous, though there is no provision there, as here, to oust the ordinary tribunals, and give provident societies cheap law in the County Courts. In France, as in Belgium, honorary distinctions, medals, and even crosses of the Legion of Honour, are granted to members and officers of Friendly Societies, who are recommended for the purpose by the Government Commission.

Deferred annuities for old age may be pro-

there are a sufficient number of honorary members to guarantee them. Honorary members are not, in most cases, mere voluntary subscribers, but persons who make the same periodical contribution as the other members, without demanding any relief or benefit from the society; still the restriction is an unscientific one, and hardly likely to be of much value. There is, as in England,

mised by a Friendly Society, but only if

a Government office for granting Deferred Annuities, but for reasons which must be familiar to every one acquainted with the subject, it has not been more successful or more popular than the sister Government institu-

M. Laurent's book is stored with practical information of all kinds, and is a perfect encyclopædia with respect to the subject on which it treats. There seems to be one question very much agitated in France which does not trouble us here—the relations of the Friendly Societies with the medical profession. In England, there are so many young medical practitioners in every town to whom it is worth while to accept the office of adviser to a Friendly Society, however low the remuneration attached to it, that the societies have no difficulty in getting well served; but the French medical men appear to be very much dissatisfied with the terms offered to them. The supply of medicines is usually made a separate question from that of medical attendance, and by making a special arrangement with the apothecaries, the societies are able to procure medicines at an average cost, for the whole of the empire, of about two francs per member per annum.

M. Laurent has faith in the future of mutual societies. He is certain that every day will disclose in them some new application of the principle of association and reciprocity; but he urges the absolute necessity of their being based upon the most rigidly accurate estimates. He discusses at length numerous objects which he thinks capable of "mutualization," to use his own language. These are, provision for failure of employment; the adoption of orphans and the assistance of widows; the education and apprenticeship of children; the providing articles of consumption; baths and laundries; the lending of money for the advancement in life of the members upon sounder and, at the same time, more liberal principles than those by which the English Loan Societies are regulated; the supervision of funerals, not merely the providing the funeral expenses, but the purchase of a private grave, and the abolition of much that is unpleasant in existing customs; the providing members with dwellings; the acquiring a mutual library, &c. Holding these convictions of the value of Friendly Societies, M. Laurent is anxious to see their operations extended, particularly in country parts, and notices with approval the Parochial Friendly Society scheme introduced into the House of Lords a few years ago by Lord Lansdowne. He would also like to see a system of mutuality in the second degree established between the several Friendly Societies, but this is a point which he admits to present many difficulties.

The subject of Co-operative Societies also enters into the plan of this work. They are of three kinds: for consumption, which prevail most in England; for credit, which flourish principally in Germany; and for production. The German Credit Banks have made very rapid progress. The first of the kind was established on October 1, 1850, and there are now 662 such banks, with 200,000 members, and a capital equivalent to 2,000,000 sterling. Mr. Laurent desires to see Co-operative and Friendly Societies working in union. Warmly and eloquently he urges upon those favoured by fortune and by instruction to encourage and assist both forms of effort on the part of the working classes to help themselves, reminding the wealthy that, though in the conflict of classes they might hold their own, it is the union of the classes only which must be the salvation of society.

THE BROTHERS.

The Brothers: a Novel. By Anna H. Drury.
In 2 vols. (Chapman & Hall.)

In these days, when novels fall around us as thick as autumn leaves, and often as crude and indigestible as unripe berries, it is a real satisfaction to come upon one which is simply faultless in grammar and diction, and when considerable grace of style and artistic skill in composition are to be added to its merits, this satisfaction becomes a well-defined pleasure.

In the story before us we are carried on agreeably from chapter to chapter, the events occur at a fair and just rate of progression, the sentiments are not spun out to gossamer, the details are not dwelt upon to inanity. The narrative flows briskly; and the language, bright, sparkling, pointed, would make a duller story readable. These merits, it must be confessed, are partly owing to the grand discovery booksellers are at last making, that three volumes are not absolutely indispensable to the existence of an orthodox novel. Who can say what dreary dead levels, what waste of incidents, what halts and dislocations, even in well-constructed stories, have been occasioned, time out of mind, by that inevitable third volume, or rather by the second out of the three; for it is the second volume which is usually the superfluous one, and which the practised novel skimmer, beginning of course at the final catastrophe, and recurring to the beginning of the story, if he is sufficiently affected by the fate of the personages to care to know how they entered on their career, is wont to leave unread.

Free from the encumbrance of a middle volume, Miss Drury tells her tale naturally and vivaciously. She does not aspire to originality in the portraiture of character. Her men and women are all drawn from types common enough in the world of fiction, and just sufficiently lifelike to give their doings and sayings an air of probability. They are well grouped and skilfully con-trasted; and with one or two exceptions, which we shall notice presently, their keeping is well-maintained throughout. The story itself stands on the border-land between the sensational and the religious novels, partaking in some degree of the character of both. The sensation element leads us to the verge of some of those thrilling "situations" which have stiffened the hair of novel readers so often of late; but the chief catastrophe stops short of crime, and the milder element of moral correction and instruction is suffered to prevail, having had sufficient stimulus in the course of the story to keep it from languishing in the sphere of common-place. As the characters are well contrasted—the frank, insouciant Roland with the self-willed, impetuous Harcourt; the worldly, high-spirited Stella with the gentle, gracious Marion; the reverend, sage Brudenel with the reckless adventurer, Saville; the twaddling Mrs. Porchester with the rigid Anglican curate—so there is also a pleasing and effective contrast observable in the interchange of locality. The descriptions of Baden and the Black Forest form an agreeable counterpart to the English village and ancestral mansion. We give an extract from one of the Baden chapters :-

We are again at Baden-Baden, and Harcourt Clarendon and Gervase Wray are sauntering together under the horse-chesnut trees, whose rich blossom betrays that it is unfashionably early in the season. There is hardly any stir in the place as yet—the booths are not half opened, the promenade is desolate, the hotels are more than half empty, but the country is in its loveliest dress, and the inhabitants can enjoy that loveliness in peace and quiet, which is more than they can do later in the year. What perverse spirit of contradiction had driven his companion here now, Gervase could not fathom; his remonstrances had been thrown away, and to Baden he had come in May, when there was nothing in the world to see but the beauty of nature. They had been here now two or three days, and Wray had contrived to exist, with the help of the table d'hôte, theatre, and écarté; and, being of a philosophic temperament, was contented to remain, so long as he had nothing to

pay. He humoured his friend in every whim, and bore with his changing moods as no one else, perhaps, would have done, for it was no easy task. As they turned down the Allée on the present occasion, Harcourt suddenly stopped short. "I shall go a little way by myself now, Gervase; I will meet you again in an hour or two," he said, and struck off to the left, secure that his companion would not even wish to follow, when he saw where he was going.

There was another watching him, however, who had fewer scruples where he followed, to compass his ends; and as the young man entered the cemetery, a dark, stealthy figure was not many paces behind, though keeping back till a favourable opportunity should offer. Unconscious of being observed, Harcourt strode on, a little perplexed at first in finding what he sought, for changes are rapid in God's acre, and the army of crosses had moved an encampment farther since he saw them last. The keeper of the cemetery, however, helped him to recollect the spot, and pointed out the resting-place of Mr. Saville with some pride, as many English had asked to see it. His end had made quite a sensation; only, with a significant jerk of his thumb, one did not talk much about it down there. He had kept it tidy and clean, but there was no one in the place to give any orders, and to hang wreaths upon it now. Oh, the gentle-man was too good — pocketing Harcourt's gratuity—and it should be under his special care, if he wished it. Perhaps he would like to gather a leaf as a souvenir of his dear friend?

"I have a more lasting one about me," was the Englishman's answer; and when left to himself, he stood with his arms leaning on the iron rails, gazing down on the stone, with feelings against which it could ill protect the dead.

The motif of the story consists in the love of two brothers for a forlorn damsel whom circumstances have thrown upon their protection; the hindrances the favoured lover has to sustain from the jealousy and determination of his rival; and the tragic occurrences which led to that rival's removal from the scene. The sensational incident, par eminence (for there is rather a large allowance of minor accidents and disasters), is the manslaughter of a false and obtrusive retainer by the rejected suitor. And here we find our chief fault with the construction of the tale. The killing of Trail should have been a little more "sensational;" that is, as we understand the word wicked. If it was as purely accidental as is supposed—the result merely of a blow given in self-defence--we can hardly conceive a brave and honourable man like Harcourt Clarendon not going to the authorities and telling the story at once, instead of trying with such infinite pains to hide the evidences of the deed. We could, indeed, understand his going moodily on his way (in the temper he was then in), doing neither the one thing nor the other; but his infinite care to disguise the body and disguise his own identity showed-whatever elaborate reasons he may have given for itmore of the coward and schemer than is consistent with the attributes credited to him. Then, again, his remorse of conscience for the deed is somewhat disproportionate to its guilt. What can the meekest of mankind be expected to do if a drunken villain assaults him with a cocked pistol in his hand, but give him a push, and a hard one, if he can? and if the villain falls backward and breaks his head against a stone, the slayer of course will be sorry and shocked, but still free from all guilt before God and man. Harcourt was, no doubt, very wrong in humouring and spoiling the man beforehand; but this, with its unforeseen consequence, was hardly heinous enough to cause the long complicated system of shame, concealment, and self-accusation under which he succumbs.

Nor can we think Cecil Percival's conduct natural, in keeping secret for two years the facts that had come to his knowledge, unless the strange casuistry by which he could persuade himself into such a course is intended as a warning against the possible tendencies of overstrained Tractarianism in warping a good man's habits of straightforward judgment. The interest in the minor characters is well kept up throughout. Stella and Percival seem at first an ill-matched pair; but their gradual approximation is cleverly

described, and we feel no doubt that they did each other a great deal of good in the conjugal way, while there can be little doubt that their home was safe from the bane of domestic dulness.

One of the most effective scenes is the conflagration in the concluding chapter of the book. It is dramatically told; and we think altogether that, spicing the sensation ingredient a little more highly, a very successful piece for the theatre might be constructed out of Miss Drury's book.

NEW NOVELS.

Doctor Harold. By Mrs. Gascoigne. 3 Vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THESE three volumes contain four stories I told by "Doctor Harold," the witness and actor in them all. This is very well, but the stories are made to run one into another, and the same persons play a diminishing or increasing part throughout. We consider this a great fault. The tales are in reality quite independent and should have been kept so. There would have been a completeness in each, which is now entirely wanting. The first story of all "The Violet of Violet's-nest," shows how "The Doctor" persuaded Violet, the orphan, the governess, and the patient, to become, after some hesitation, his wife. The second, "Esther," is the old story of an unhappy home, seduction, false marriage, and death. In the third, "Ina," Doctor Harold thinks he has succeeded in breaking off the engagement of that portionless young lady with Sir Rufus Armitage, a young and wealthy, but ill-tempered, baronet. Of course, as soon as his back is turned the engagement is renewed. Mrs. Glynne, poor but proud, naturally beats the Doctor in arranging her own daughter's affairs. The match turns out an unhappy one, and the Doctor plays the very foolish part of a sort of avenging angel, standing between the injured wife and the haughty Sir Rufus. The best scene is where Mrs. Beddoes, the nurse, beards Sir Rufus when attempting to enter the presence of his wife and her newborn babe, with his after-breakfast eigar still in his mouth. He is, of course, completely put to the rout. The last story, "Uncle Guy," is the best. Uncle Guy is the younger brother of Sir Cosmo Gwynne, a family of prodigious pedigree. This point is very much overdone, and is of no importance whatever to the plot of the story. His youthful affections are thwarted by his sister Constance, who, like a true Gwynne, looks out both for money and birth, but is compelled herself to put up with the latter, in the shape of a cousin. Uncle Guy goes to India, and is unexpectedly left 120,000l. by a stranger, and thereupon returns, at the age of forty-six, to England. He has resolved to live and die a bachelor, and so assembles all his relations to come and spend their Christmas with him at Liberty Hall. Count Cosmo, the son and heir of Sir Cosmo Gwynne, and all the nephews and nieces of Uncle Guy, obey the summons. He is most liberal to all, and of course gives satisfaction to none. Mrs. Constance is very anxious that all detrimentals should be shut out from the Colonel's hospitality, and especially from access to her two portionless daughters, Annie and Constance. But Uncle Guy, mindful of his early loves, is equally determined that they shall not be thwarted, and, with his money and his influence, naturally has it all his own way. Annie, before her happiness is assured, through anxiety, is taken ill of scarlet fever, and Uncle Guy carefully nurses her till he falls ill of the same disorder. He is nursed in turn by a certain Cousin Lily, for whom he had performed a similar office when young. On his recovery, he resolves to divide his fortune in half, and distribute one portion, like a true uncle, among his relations. Before the deeds are completed, he discovers the state of his affections to Cousin Lily, who has long been in love with him; and the tale concludes with their marriage, or rather with that of three or four couples. Perhaps the best

description in the book is that of Mrs. Gwynne, when she finds Guy is going to marry himself, after having offered her fifteen thousand pounds, and the excuses she makes to herself for keeping the money. Uncle Guy is not badly drawn himself, but the relationships are too complex for so short a story. The interest is over before we have made acquaintance with the actors. Some of them have two different names—a very poor device for concealing their identity.

Shellburn. By Alexander Leighton, Author of "Curious Storied Traditions of Scottish Life," &c. In One Volume. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

MR. LEIGHTON has written "Shellburn" as a model of what a novel should be. We fear the model has too strong a taste of some nauseous galenicals, which are introduced into the prescription that is to cure the public of its usurpation of the office of lawgiver to literature and director of the literary taste of the people, to please those for whose especial edification it has been formed. To quote Mr. Leighton's own words—

We fear we must admit that, however cleverly written-and there can be no doubt of the talent everywhere, through a thousand sources, brought into play-the greater part of our fiction is little better than a camera-obscura reflection of portions of society in a state of distemper, where we see the figures moving, notice their acts, and observe their nods and grimaces, but without getting any insight into human nature. As for the once-valued artistic part—the complex, yet natural plot, the peculiar characters, the play of the passions, the passions' speech, the dénoûment, the reward of virtue, or, as we term it, the moral—we find too often that these are the exceptions. The rule seems to be signally fulfilled either by a mere piquing of the curiosity, with or without a due result, or what is more common, an easy chit-chat, rendered dolorous by catastrophes, blotched by crime, and debased by immoralities.

If we consider the almost incalculable importance of fiction as a means of moulding the heart and inclining the affections towards what is good and loveable—wherein we suspect it possesses more influence than even the school or the pulpit—it becomes a question how far the "easy reading," with the love of excitement demanded peremptorily by a peculiar age civilized it may be, yet with tendencies in many ways towards a relaxation of the old vigourmight not be reconciled with more literature, higher aspirations after the beautiful in nature and character, and a better developed morality. I do not say this is not being tried; we have excellent examples of such efforts, much better executed than anything I could offer. What we want to see is more and more successful results, till the desired change for the better is effected; and if I have contributed, even in a very small degree, to this good enterprise, I shall be sufficiently rewarded for "Shellburn."

The great fault of the book is its pedantry, a lugging in of scraps of Latin and French, and a display of a tolerable knowledge of the contents of Lempriere's Classical Dictionary. Besides this, the author is fond of metaphor, but the metaphor is of that class which is rather apt to raise a smile by its coarseness, than to enhance the pleasure of perusal by its elegance. Take the opening lines of the book. "As the dregs of liquor fall to the bottom of the bottle, so often the secrets of a big house descend, by their specific gravity, no doubt, to the kitchen." On the second page the secret is revealed in part by listening to the conversation of Mrs. Margaret Pringle, the nurse, and Joseph Carnaby, the coachman, the occasion being "a sacrifice of tea to Love-not an inapt one in many respects—besides the recollection that the Grecian dames carried all their offerings in canisters." The second chapter introduces the hero, the heroine, and her friend and rival. Patrick Græme is the owner of Arlington, an encumbered estate; Miss Alice Rowley, the daughter of a baronet, the owner of Shellburn, adjoining, Patrick's hostile creditor; and Miss Western is the heiress of Carrol, lying to the east of Arlington and Shellburn. The ladies are of nearly the same age, and each in her way hopes to be mistress of Arlington.

Having said so much, we fear we have already exposed a conjuncture, from which you may conclude that the Patrick Græme, of whom we have very favourable things to say, was something of the gentle Artemon, who had so many love-affairs on his hand that he did not know where to look for the trouble of bewitching eyes. A conclusion this which you are not entitled to make, though we admit that, if you see three speckled deer on a hill-side with their heads down, you are entitled to conclude they are nibbling grass.

This constant recurrence to metaphor, however satisfactory to the writer, is tiresome beyond measure to the reader. Added to this, the pedantry which is every now and then introducing passages like the following, does not tend to improve the temper of the latter:—

But Alice kept her secret—even while it was eating into her vitals—according to that strange law which binds up the tongue of suspected innocence, lest the sound should startle its own ear. Illum corripuit stupor et infantia linguæ.

As a model novel, "Shellburn" is a failure. It is but a fresh illustration of the fable of "The Mountain and the Mouse;" though the little creature would not have been so ridiculous but for the sound of trumpets in the preface, a specimen of which we have given at starting; for the mouse is by no means an uncommon one when divested of its borrowed spots.

The owner of Shellburn is Sir George Rowley, deformed from his birth, and at the opening of the story he has become the father of a son and heir by the wife of a second marriage; the child, however, dies in his cradle early in the tale. The baronet has a grownup daughter, whom he had petted but not spoilt prior to this second marriage. His first wife, after becoming the mother of Alice, had been driven away from home by unkindness, and had died in England. That marriage had been solemnized under false names, at the manse of Mosscairn, and the register had been tampered with, and the leaf recording it abstracted by the baronet himself, previous to his second marriage, as is afterwards made to appear in the tale. The second Lady Rowley is a kind of female fiend, and she possesses sufficient influence to lead her husband to declare his daughter Alice illegitimate. The aged mother of the baronet is an inmate of Shellburn, and is lying on a bed of sickness, from which she is not destined to rise again. She is kindness itself to Alice, whom she dearly loves, and sends for her to her room. When she arrives, she desires her to open a bureau, and to take from it an ivory box and a small morocco portfolio. These she gives to her grand-daughter, with the injunction not to open the ivory box till after her death, nor to let anyone know that she has given it to her. The portfolio contains the miniature of Alice's mother, and the ivory casket is the depository of a grande parure of diamonds many thousand pounds, upon which the second wife has set her heart. The parure is a necklace; and upon her death-bed, scenes of early gaiety flitting in the last flickering of the vital spark, the dowager calls for it, fancying that she is dressing for some grand fête. As the casket cannot be produced, she dies crying "I have been robbed of my diamonds."

The second wife has been a stealthy witness of the gift. She instils into the mind of her husband that Alice has stolen the jewels. He enters his daughter's room, and searches her drawers, but fails to find the casket. Alarmed for its safety, Alice confides it to the care of the Westerns. Those good ladies have some scruples in mixing themselves up in the affairs of a bastard, but are induced, nevertheless, to take charge of the ivory box, which mother and daughter believe to be the gift of Patrick Græme to Alice. This, through Mr. Græme, is found not to be the case; and when Alice is taken before the sheriff on the charge of theft, the ladies, as a master-stroke of policy, to prove the un-

THE READER.

28 OCTOBER, 1865.

worthiness of Alice and the high integrity of Miss Western, hasten over to Arlington to seek the advice of Patrick Græme, and to leave the box with him. Alice has been reproduces the box, which is opened in the presence of the sheriff, found to contain the diamonds, and a deed of gift of them to Alice, signed by the dowager, along with the certificate of the marriage of Alice's mother, and, of course, the evidence of her legitimacy. Here the tale ends; but a postscript informs the reader of the death of the baronet, the marriage of Patrick and Alice, and the love and the happiness of the hero and heroine.

There are several small under-plots. One of these relates to Dr. John Jacob Fletcher, the medical attendant of the family, an unmitigated scoundrel, who is set on by the second wife to persecute Alice with hateful z tentions, and who, because she rejects him, becomes her enemy. After Alice is declared illegitimate, her stepmother persuades the baronet to force on this marriage. The gift of the diamonds follows; and the doctor, believing in his heart that Alice is a thief, bids her not part with the casket, but entrust it to him for safety, that, when they "are married, he may turn the diamonds into money." The child dies in its cradle from natural causes, but suspicion is sought to be cast upon Alice that she had removed by poison this bar between herself and what, till declared a bastard, was, but for this sickly child, her inheritance. The doctor urges his suit by insisting that she is in his power, as, according to his evidence of the cause of death, she may be declared guilty or innocent.

It will be seen that the plot is but slight, and that the whole interest centres round Alice, first as the bright and happy companion of Miss Western and Patrick Græme; then in all the wretchedness of the slur cast upon her mother and her own birth; next as a thief in the house of her father; again as the murderer of her little brother; till at last it colminates in the trial before the sheriff, the discovery of the deed of gift, and the certificate of her mother's marriage, and Patrick Greene's undisguised protection of her during that trying scene.

The postscript implies that the author has followed the Horatian nonumque prematur in annum. Since the tale was written and the MS. completed, Alice, for nine years, has yearly presented her lord with a pledge of affection, two being born before the baronet's death, and seven since.

Uncle Clive. A Novel. In One Vol. (Newby.) UNCLE CLIVE is an eccentric old man somewhere in the "wilds," having been an unfortunate young man in England, in consequence of an accident that occurred to his friend Mr. Yeates while out shooting "larks." Mr. Yeates, being a timid man, stumbles in getting through a hedge, and shoots himself, which so horrifies Clive Fordham that he his home, and buries his sorrows in Australia. As an old man, he returns from California, under the name of Doctor Foolifaa, a coin collector, and, bearded like a pard, wanders over the ruins of an old abbey belonging to a rival antiquary, Mr. Simon Purvis, who resents the intrusion of the stranger and his everlasting pipe in his comdaints to Mr. Haliday, the village doctor, at whose house Foolifaa is made a welcome guest. There Uncle Clive meets his two orphan nieces, and, charmed by their characters, caves each, Maud and Ellie, step-sisters, handsome fortunes, and, without making himself known, returns again to his wandering savage life. But Maud's fortune has a condition attached to it. She is to marry Napoleon Yeates, or else to forfeit the money, unless he refuses to marry her. In that case, she retains her fortune, and can do as she pleases. Maud is a high-spirited young lady, and "Nap" is a great booby. So the girl determines to frighten him, get a letter of refusal, and marry, instead, his step-brother, Cecil Lindsay, to whom she has long been attached. This she accomplishes—how, it is

for the reader to find out; for, slight and improbable as the materials are. "Uncle Clive" is a tale that will bear reading.

Introductory Lecture by Professor Buchheim, Ph.D., read at King's College on Thursday evening, the 12th inst., On the Influence of the Reformation on the Language and Literature of Germany. - After noticing the state of German literature of the early ages, the feuds and jealousies of the different countries in Fatherland, the consequent repugnance among them of conforming to or adopting the dialects of their neighbours, and the pernicious effect produced by the fact that the German emperors preferred to style themselves Roman emperors, and Germany the Holy Roman Empire, Dr. Buchheim expatiated on the merits of Luther, and his gigantic labours in translating the Bible anew from the original Hebrew and Greek; and argued that, Luther being identical with the Reformation, it follows irresistibly that the Reformation had a beneficial effect upon the language and literature of Germany. There was certainly hardly any direct connexion between the Reformation and German literature traced in the lecture. Nor could we see, by the mode of the lecturer's argument, how Luther influenced the German language, seeing that he made use of that which he found ready made for him. We were prepared to hear that the Reformation exercised a beneficial influence on language and literature in general, and on those of Germany in par-ticular. The movement did not only emancipate the people from priestly leading-strings, but it also partly freed the North European languages from the oppressive yoke of bad Latinisms and other barbarisms. Most of what was written in defence of, or in opposition to, the Reformation, was obliged to be written, not in the vitiated style of the canting, popinjay priests, but in a language to be comprehended by the mass. He it was who not only pointed out to the people a new road to heaven, but he also conveyed God's Word by a new road to the people's hearts. For up to that time the written German was, indeed, scarcely intelligible to the middle classes, much less to the multitude, so vitiated it was by barbarisms and irregularities of all kinds, traces of which are still to be found lingering in modern German. Luther, however, laid the foundation to a new and noble fabric. He did, indeed, make use of the materials of the old dilapidated structure he pulled down, but the worthless he rejected, and what was good he shaped and dove-tailed and cemented with a skilful hand, with a single eye, and with whole heart. Dr. Buchheim, in conclusion, laid great emphasis on the fact that Hans Sachs, Lessing, Klopstock, Göthe, and Schiller, were all Protestants.

Dalziel's Illustrated Arabian Nights' Entertainments. Illustrated Edition. Vol. II. (Ward, Lock, & Tyler.)—This volume completes one of the most beautiful editions of the "Arabian Nights" that has been issued from the press for some time. The paper and typography are every-thing that can be desired. Among the crowd of illustrations it is difficult to select the best, but perhaps those of Prince Beder bear off the palm. We may also notice "the jewellers examining the twenty-three lattices." But all are excellent and oriental.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

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OBITUARY.

THE LATE PRESIDENT OF THE AUSTRIAN IMPERIAL ACADEMY.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—The enclosed obituary notice of the late President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of Vienna, which I extract from a letter received this morning from Count Marschall von Bergholshausen, of Vienna, will be of interest to your readers.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, George E. Roberts.

"Perhaps you may be interested by some de-tails about the last disposition of the President of our Academies, Baron Baumgartner, who died July 30, 1865, a childless widower, with rather considerable fortune. He left his very valuable physical apparatus, with a choice library belong-ing to it, to the "Ober-Real-Schule" (Superior Technical School) of Olmutz, in Moravia, where

he began his scientific career as professor at the university then existing at that place. To the "Academy," President of which he was since 1849, he bequeathed ten five per cent. bonds in the Public Debts (each of 1,000 florins), the interests of which, accumulated during at least two years, are to be bestowed as a prize for the best elaboration on a subject to be proposed by the "Mathematisch-Naturwissenschaftliche-Classe." Should none of them be thought to deserve this prize, the Classe should be at liberty to bestow it on any publication most useful for the promotion of physical science which had appeared within the term fixed for competition. It would be doing due honour to the deceased if these legacies could be made known in England through any of the most diffused periodicals."

Geological Society of London, Oct. 23, 1865.

The famous French actor Rouviere, whose death is announced, was fifty-five years old. He began life as a painter, and studied under Gros. His principal parts were King Lear, Hamlet, Charles IX., and Maître Favilla.

M. Frey, the well-known Swiss landscape painter, has died at Frascati. His studies from the South of Europe and Egypt were much admired at Rome.

CHRISTIAN H. PANDER, the celebrated Russian naturalist, died at St. Petersburg on the 22nd ult., after a long and successful career of scientific activity, which commenced in 1817, by the publication of his memoir on the development of chicks. After publishing, in common with D'Alton, the well-known "Atlas of Comparative Osteology," he devoted himself to the illustration of the geology of the countries lying between Orenburg and Bokhara, and of the rest of the Russian Empire. Dr. Pander identified the fossil fishes of the Devonian period in Russia with those of the old red sandstone of Scotland, a subject which was subsequently worked out with great ability by him in his "Ichthyo-lites of the Devonian Rocks of Russia." At the time of his death Dr. Pander had advanced far in the preparation of an elaborate work on the fossils of the carboniferous rocks of Russia. He was a member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, and an honorary member of numerous scientific societies of other

We regret to announce the death of Mr. RAE, C.E., one of the members of Dr. Livingstone's exploring party in Africa, which took place in Glasgow, on the 11th instant. Mr. Rae, who had been for some time at Zanzibar, only arrived in Scotland on the 2nd of this month, and arrangements had been made that during his visit he should be married to a daughter of the late Mr. Walter Dalgleish, Holylee, Selkirkshire. Up till Tuesday, which had been fixed for the marriage, he was in apparently perfect health, but about noon of that day he complained of pain in the stomach, but not of so serious a nature as to prevent the marriage ceremony taking place at three o'clock. Mr. Rae, shortly after the marriage, seemed to be getting worse, and was put to bed. His illness was accompanied with insensibility in the evening; in the morning consciousness returned, but he died about noon on Wednesday. He was only thirty-two years of age.

MR. W. VINCENT WALLACE, the eminent composer, who died on the 12th inst., at the Château de Bagen, Haute Garonne, in the Pyrenees, was buried in All Souls' Cemetery, Kensall Green, on Monday last. Mr. Wallace had for many years been subject to dange-rous attacks of illness, originating in a dropsical tendency, and for the last twelve months has not been able to leave his bed. The immediate cause of death appears to have been "congestion of the lungs." Mr. Wallace leaves a widow and two young boys. His most successful works were "Maritana" and "Lurline." He leaves a posthumous grand opera in four acts behind him, almost complete, entitled "Estrella," founded on a Spanish romance. Mr. Wallace was fifty-three years of age.

The Rev. Francis Wayland, D.D., President of Brown University, in the United States, died on September 30, aged sixty-nine.

We have also to record the death, at Töppliwoda, in Silesia, of WILHELM AUGUST WIELAND, the last surviving son of the poet, on the 22nd ult.

The Gazette des Etrangers announces the death of Signor GIUGLINI, at the age of forty. He had

been obliged to retire from the stage for more than a year on account of his mind giving way. A week ago he rapidly grew worse, and expired on Saturday last. Antonio Giuglini was born at Feanes, in the Roman States, in 1826. He received his early instruction from Cellini, Maestro di Capella at Fermo, and began his public career by singing in little duets between the acts at the theatre in that town. He subsequently appeared at Venice, Milan, and Naples, where he rapidly became popular. In 1857 he was engaged by Mr. Lumley at Her Majesty's Theatre, where he achieved a decided success.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BEAL (BAAL) FIRES. To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—I am obliged to your correspondent "H. M. W." for drawing my attention to a work which I have never seen, nor even before heard of—viz., the Rev. A. Hislop's "Two Babylons." But I cannot think that the feast of the fires on the Vigil of St. John Baptist's Day has any correspondence with the ancient "Summer Festival of Thammuz," although this Syrian god is looked upon by some as the impersonation of the sun. Indeed, I was always led to consider that the Thammuz Festival began with the new moon in the month of July, and not so early as the 23rd June, which is St. John's Eve, and as Shakespeare says,

Of our solemnities.

I may add that I have no doubt but important vestiges of Baal worship, both fire worship and the grander sun worship, will be found still exist-ing in many, particularly the eastern and southern countries of the world; where men, with "their faces toward the East, worship the sun toward the East."-Believe me, yours, &c., JOHN HOGG.

Norton House, Stockton-on-Tees, October 23, 1865.

LYRA AMERICANA.

To the Editor of THE READER.
Sir,—In a review of the "Lyra Americana" in THE READER for Oct. 21, the name of Sarah F. Adams is given among the contributors to that volume, and the reviewer adds : "The ' Nearer, my God, to Thee' of Miss Adams is already popular in this country, though we were unaware of the name of its author." Permit me, as a friend of the late Sarah Flower Adams, to explain who she really was. Although she had American relations, she was herself an Englishwoman, and, so far as I know, she never visited America in her life She was the younger daughter of Mr. Benjamin Flower, of Harlow, in Essex, the editor of the Cambridge Intelli-gencer, a man well known in the days of Hardy and Horne Tooke for his sturdy republicanism. She was married to Mr. W. Bridges Adams in 1834, and died in 1848. Her hymn, "Nearer, my God, to Thee," was one of twelve which she contributed to the collection of "Hymns and Anthems" published in 1842 by C. Fox (67 Paternoster Row), and edited by the late W. J. Fox, for the use of the congregation of South Place Chapel, Moorfields. She also wrote several tales and poems (signed "S. Y.") in the Monthly Repository, during the years 1833-36; and, some years later, she contributed occasional poetical notices and criticisms to the Westminster Review. I remember one of these, on "The Poems of Elizabeth Barrett," which was signed "S. F. A.," and which must have appeared about 1844 or 1845. But her greatest literary effort was a dramatic poem, called "Vivia Perpetua," founded on the martyrdom of St. Perpetua. (This was published in 1841, by C. Fox.) It manifests all the religious fervour of her hymns, with the addition of dramatic genius and an intellectual power rarely to be found in female poetry.

Nearly all Mrs. Adams's lyrics (including "Nearer, my God, to Thee") have been set to music by her sister, the late Eliza Flower, in her "Songs of the Seasons," "Songs of the Months," "Hymns and Anthems," &c., &c. It may be worth while to correct another misapprehension which I have sometimes encountered, and which has arisen very naturally from the coincidence of names. I will therefore add that those two sisters were not the Eliza and Sarah Flower so well known as English vocalists, some years ago. - Yours respectfully,

SOPHIA DOBSON COLLET.

London, October 23, 1865.

PROMETHEUS.*

THE story of Prometheus has, in these days, acquired a new significance. The ancient legend was founded on a change of the celestial dynasties. Zeus was neither the maker, nor was he powerful enough to become the destroyer of the last of the Titans. On the contrary, the days were to come when Zeus was to be dethroned in his turn, and Prometheus to be unbound. The whole fable was too striking not to be early welcomed by Christian poets; but a new theology necessitated fresh treatment. Friendship for man and hatred of the Almighty were not incompatible in the Greek conception of Prometheus. But the Titans were soon identified with the fallen angels, and it was necessary for those who studied in Æschylus the character of Satan to sink the benefactor of mankind in the immortal rebel.

Still the name which was sanctified by antiquity as that of the immediate creator of man, could not for long be merged in that of his great enemy. A reaction has taken place, and attempts have been made to elevate Prometheus into something very much resembling a prototype of Him whom Christendom holds to unite the attributes of redemption and Almighty power.

Goethe's idea of the happiness to be found in the exercise of innate faculty, led him to represent the gods as an idle, almost boyish crew, who had come into the labours of others, and could not make, but only mar. His Prometheus is human providence struggling with the higher power which Fate has placed over him. The humble crowd of mortals may propitiate Zeus; but he, strong in his right of immortality, will do his allotted work, regardless of the storm, and careless of the sunshine. It is his own soul glowing with holy fire which has rescued him from slavery. Time fashioned him what he is, and he will shape out man to weep and rejoice like himself. He owns no laws but those of Fate; he complains of no gods but those who dash all enjoyment by reckoning it a sin. He is ready to sacrifice himself for man. But his action must be voluntary; his earthly death a temporary withdrawal; his return certain and victorious. Yet even Goethe was unable to erect a Pagan temple over, as it were, the very sepulchre of Christ, and with the very stuff and matter which had once built up a Holy of Holies. He felt the fireballs of the inferior world exploding under his feet, and like another worshipper of the old religion, he left his work a frag ment.

He was succeeded by a more unbridled spirit. The priests, who once carried the wandering ark of classic letters, saw and shuddered at an image of triumphant oppression over-shadowing under any name the mercy-seat of heaven; and time or piety has cast an eternal veil over the features of the conquered hero of Æschylus. But a day came again when men said aloud that there was no God. The cry passed away, but left its echo in the verse of Shelley.

Knowledge triumphant and faith dethroned is the moral of "Prometheus Unbound." Man, in the person of Hercules, has accomplished his labours. He draws the nails fixed by a vindictive Deity; he staunches the laceration of the side. Prometheus descends wounded from his cross; and the true millennium of united humanity commences upon that earth on which no power but Nature has placed it.

The meaning of all this is clear. It is the voice of the creature which says, Why am I fashioned thus? Men can demand in chorus what they dare not ask alone,

and cry-

O! wherefore should the Reigning Power

Call from the dust a weed, or flower, To bear the curse of unknown things?

It is the struggle of passion against law, the agony of those who see but a part, and deny that there is any One who can comprehend the whole. Still the foresight of the few is sufficient to preserve the hope of the world. Generations may find life grievous, but the colossal man cannot use the remedy of suicide. Mankind feel that their existence is a necessity.

The gods themselves cannot recall their gifts.

He may rejoice in the day of his power; but he cannot extinguish the stolen flame of life: He may make man his sport, and shake the heavens and the earth as ashes in the hollow of his hand; but for all these things the Demiurgus of the hour shall be brought into judgment. Man will hand on the torch of existence to his successor, and rejoice, like Prometheus, in the offspring of his loins, who shall finally trample Fear and Death, and idle Prayer, under his feet.

This idea of a malevolent God, vanquished by the persistence of an Incarnate Spirit, bears certainly a doubtful resemblance to the justice which, in the Christian theory, is satisfied by an immaculate sacrifice. Yet even orthodox moralists are disposed to celebrate the release of Prometheus. Suffering, unjustly inflicted, must be the type of atonement. He, because he exalts man, or Hercules, who sets him free, must represent a Saviour.

Poets are at liberty to mould an ancient legend according to their will. But it is curious how in all this the genuine story has been set aside. Prometheus was punished, not because he taught mankind the use of fire, but for defrauding Jupiter of his sacrifice, and attempting the chastity of Minerva. Let us turn to its interpretation by the subtlest of Englishmen. "This appears to signify nothing else than that men, inflated with their powers, the extent of their science, too frequently attempt to subject divine wisdom also to their senses and reason; whence most certainly follows laceration of the mind, and perpetual and unquiet excitement. Thus, with sober and submissive mind, we must distinguish between human and divine things, and the oracles of sense and those of faith, unless perchance both an heretical religion, and a falsified philosophy, are after the hearts of men."

It was, therefore, the opinion of Lord Bacon, that the struggle which now shakes the intellectual world was by no means strange to antiquity. But, like many another which was dimly felt by the ancients, the question is posed much more boldly to-day. Men have resolved themselves into a committee to dis-

cuss the utility of God. There are those who would call Him the "Supreme Evil;" whilst others think He may form "a beautiful sky, as it were, to the pic-ture of life." Some discern in all this the footfalls of the coming Antichrist. Others an unbinding which will restore Nature to her abdicated throne. The mass are watching, as a chorus of mortals should, the strife which darkens the lights by which we have long been ruled. They have good reason for anxiety. hope of conferring some gift of immeasurable value on the race has often suggested the most audacious acts to the votary of science. The welfare of a generation is nothing to him who seeks to found a new religion, or uproot an old. Mundane omnipotence in human shape would wield a very ruthless sceptre. And the last veil of all could never be lifted. We may play with life and force as we will, but we shall never grasp the secret of Existence.

It is not, however, those whose minds

are habitually considering what is righteousness, and whether there is a judgment to come, and whose thoughts are always wandering through eternity, whom ordinary men can condemn. They supply the flame which may burn and shine in dark places, or be set as beacons on dangerous The double nature of such as Prometheus must always remain a problem. They fulfil half the law, for they love man whom they have seen, though their veneration may be wanting for Him whom they have not seen. But they should not direct their reproaches upwards. It is not for those who claim an intellectual throne to defile themselves with the waveoffering of ridicule, or the shew-bread of hypocrisy. It should be their pride to discover and anticipate the Inevitable. They may look upon Space as the illimitable Hall of Eblis, and Thought a vulture which never ceases to gnaw, but they should hide their burning hearts in silence, and give no sign even whilst they sit under the shadow, or pass through the grand transmutation of Death.

MISCELLANEA.

THERE is but one edition of the "Historia Ecclesiastica" of Venerable Bede printed in the 15th century. This book for a long time was considered the rarest volume of its class, and only one copy was said to exist in this country, that which is in the library at Althorp. The late Mr. Richard Heber, the eminent book-collector, formerly member for Oxford, had long searched in vain for a copy of the work. At length he met with a price, in London, and at his sale that copy produced 40%. That price was obtained because it was not known that this rare and coveted volume is in reality only the latter half of the first edition of the "Historiæ Ecclesiasticæ," printed by H. Eggesteyn, at Strasburg, without date, about the year 1470, and that consequently, far from being a book of the extreme rarity attributed to it by Dr. Dibdin, though rare, it was not so difficult to meet with copies of it as had been imagined. This fact was discovered by the person who sold the copy to Mr. Heber, and in consequence of that discovery this first edition of "Venerabilis Bedæ Historia Gentis Anglorum Ecclesiastica" is now found in several of our public and private collections, either in its original binding, along with "Eusebii Pamphili Historia Ecclesiastica per Rufinum in Latinum traducta," which forms the first half of the volume, or more recently bound np separately. In a catalogue of early printed books just issued by Mr. T. O. Weigel, of Leipzig, whose agents are Messrs. Williams and Norgate, of Henrietta Street, at page 17 is a copy of the Eusebius, marked at 3L, and at page 18 a copy of the Beda, marked at 11L, both of

^{* &}quot;Prometheus the Fire-Bringer." By R. H. Horne. (Edmonston & Douglas. 1864.)—"Prometheus Unbound." By Percy Bysse Shelley.—
"Prometheus." By Goethe.—"Atalanta in Calydon." By Swinburne. Second Edition. (Moxon & Co. 1865.)—"Pessimus:" a Poem in Prose, and a Paradox. By Young England. (Shrimpton, Oxford. 1865.)

which are probably part of the same volume. Indeed, neither can be said to be complete without the other.

In Mr. T. O. Weigel's catalogue, just referred to respecting the first edition of the Latin text of Bede's "Ecclesiastical History," are many rare and valuable productions of the early printers, the whole consisting of four hundred articles, including some curious specimens of block printing. Two books on the Holy Land at this moment claim attention: 217. Ludolf von Suchen's "Von dem gelobten land und weg gegen Jerusalem, von ihrem wesen, und wundern die in dem grossen mör geschen werdent. O. O. und J." It is a copy of the very rare Ulm edition, printed, without date, by Hohenwang, whose peculiar form of the letter G identifies this volume as a production of his press, instead of that of Günther Zainer, of Augsburg, to which it is attributed by MM. Brunet and Hain. A copy of Günther Zainer's edition of the same work is described as Lot 19 of the catalogue; and Lot 24 is Breydenbach's "Fahrt oder reyss über mere zu dem heyligen grab unsers herren Jhesu christi gen Jherusalem. Auch zu der heyligen junckfrawen sant Katherinen grab auf dem berg Synai," printed at Augsburg by Anton Sorg, in 1488, with remarkable and large folding panoramic views, several feet in length, of the cities of the Mediterranean and Holy Land-a book the Latin text of which so charmed our old gossiping antiquary, John Rous, of Warwick, on its first appearance, that in his "Historia Regum Angliæ," which begins with the Creation, he frequently places higher confidence in the traveller's narrative than in the Bible itself, particularly in regard to prehistoric man and the cities before the Flood.

A HANDSOME reredos has just been erected in the University Church, Cambridge, by the Rev. J. B. Lightfoot, D.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity. It consists of a centre and two wings, under canopy work. In the centre is our Saviour on the Cross, at the feet of which are laid the emblems of science; on the right is St. Paul preaching at Athens; on the left, Samuel in the school of the Prophets. The carvings are executed in alabaster by Armstead; the rest of the work, in white stone, is by Farmer; coloured marbles are inlaid here and there; and the general effect is very good.

THE chaplaincy of Dulwich College is vacant. It is worth 300l. a-year, with an official residence. The election will take place shortly after the 30th of November. The Rev. Robert Carrington, curate to the Rev. Mr. Melville, at Barnes, and formerly curate to the Rev. Daniel Moore, at Camden Church, Camberwell, is likely to be the successful candidate.

THE delegates of the students at the Liège Congress have announced that political subjects will be entirely banished from the congress. The Governments of Austria, Holland, and Belgium have allowed the students who visit the Congress to travel at a considerably reduced rate of fares.

THE Russian archimandrite, Michail, has published in the Russian language, at Moscow, a refutation of Rénan's "Life of Jesus."

THE colossal equestrian statue of Prince Eugene was unveiled at Vienna on the 18th inst. It is two-and-a-half times the size of life, and is by the well-known sculptor Fernkorn.

THE Gazette de France states that the Pope has resolved to establish in England a second archbishopric, of which the seat will be either at Liverpool or Birmingham.

THE Dean and Chapter of Worcester have resolved to grant the use of the cathedral for the Three Choir Festival next year.

Brsides Mr. Stephen Lucas, of the Times, the Rev. Alex. J. D. D'Orsey has announced himself as a candidate for the Professorship of English at the University College, London. Mr. D'Orsey was Chancellor's English Medallist at Cambridge; and he holds the English Lectureship at Corpus Christi College there, and the Lectureship in Public Reading at King's College, London. He is author of "A Plea for the Study of the English Language at Public Schools and Universities," and several other works on literature.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Credit Foncier and Mobilier of England (Limited) was held at the London Tavern on Tuesday last. It appears that the anticipated capital of the company is expressed by the figures 4,000,000l. This amount is proposed to be raised by 200,000 shares of 20l. each. Capital has already been subscribed to the amount of 100,000 shares in the first issue, the sum of

500,000l. having been paid up at the rate of 5l. per share. The company has a reserve fund of 200,000l., and another, expressly devoted to dividend purposes, of 70,000l.

Mr. George Grove has collected about 3,000% towards the expenses of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and the expedition will shortly start to the scene of its interesting labours.

MR. THOMAS HUGHES gave a lecture on Wednesday night on "Our Public Schools," at the Walworth Literary Institution. The chair was taken by the Rev. E. Roger, M.A., Head Master of the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, St. Saviour's Southwark, and there was a large attendance.

MR. STEPHEN HENRY BRADBURY, known by his pseudonym of "Quallon," has a new volume of poems in the press, which will be published, in the course of November, by Messrs. Moxon and Co.

If the fall in the atmosphere did not remind us that Christmas is coming, we should not long be left in ignorance of its approach. Already our table begins to glitter with gift-books for the season. Mr. Beeton's ever-welcome "Annual," edited by himself and the Rev. J. G. Wood, is what its title calls it, "a book for the young," extensively illustrated with woodcuts and plates printed in colours. It is, this year, published by Messrs. Frederick Warne and Co., and will not fail to gladden many a young heart, when the Christmas-tree is lighted up, and the Heiliger Christ spreads out his gifts of love and remembrance. The same publishers send out a nicely-illustrated edition of "The Arabian Nights' Entertainments," beautifully printed, under the editorial care of the Rev. George Fyler Townsend, the text so purified, "that the most innocently-minded maiden may read the tales aloud to her brothers and sisters without scruple or compunction," thus opening up the most pleasant means of obtaining an insight into the manners and customs of the neverchanging East, which to such young folks may have hitherto been forbidden.

Mr. Hodgson will sell, amongst other remainders, on Tuesday next, at his rooms in Chancerylane, 500 copies of the Douay Bible, and 500 copies of Cardinal Mai's Greek Testament.

THE private view of the first annual Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings at Mr. MacLean's new gallery, in the Haymarket, takes place today, as does also that of the Winter Exhibition in Pall Mall.

MR. G. D. LOCKHART'S ship Ravenscraig, Captain D. B. Inglis, of London, just arrived from New Zealand, has brought home a curious relic of the ornithology of those islands in the form of an egg of the Moa, or Dinornis, of New Zealand. The egg is alleged to have been discovered under somewhat singular circumstances. While some labourers were marking out a site to build upon in the Wairakie district, a pick struck upon a cave. On opening it, it was found to contain the skeleton of a Maori in a crouching position, holding with both hands the egg, and in such a manner as if death came upon the unfortunate native while in the act of partaking of the contents of the egg. Although the shell is slightly broken, the gigantic proportions of the egg yet remain perfect. It measures about nine inches in length, and seven inches in diameter.

THE GERMAN SHAKSPEARE SOCIETY met at Weimar last Sunday week. The President, Dr. Ulrici, read a report, from which it appears that the efforts of the society to promote the cultivation of the English language and literature in German Universities and colleges have been very successful. A Skakspeare library is being formed, and the first part of a Shakspeare annual has been issued. The second part, which is in preparation, contains articles on "Shakspeare in Germany," "Shakspeare's Sonnets," "Hamlet in France," "Shakspeare and Sophocles," and "Shakspeare, a Catholic Poet."

That admirable institution, the Crystal Palace School of Art, Science, and Literature, established under the management of a committee of the Crystal Palace directors, is about to enter upon its sixth annual session. The various classes are formed on the collegiate system, and they afford a liberal and finished education, conducted by the highest class professors, at a reasonable cost. Elegant class-rooms and studios have been provided at the north-end of the Palace; they are quite private, and, though within, are separate from the public portion of the building. During the last session nearly 200 ladies availed themselves of the advantages thus afforded. The comprehensive and valuable col-

lection of the Crystal Palace, particularly in reference to art, its history and progress, illustrated by the various courts and their contents, are all made available for use by the pupils and professors.

M. Bruner, now in his 86th year, hopes, if spared, to publish in the course of three years a supplement to the fifth edition of the "Manuel du Libraire," containing the Errata and Addenda which he has accumulated during the progress of the work through the press. If not, the materials will be handed over to a friend for posthumous publication. Let us hope that the veteran bibliographer may live to complete the work himself, and that all who can assist him in this labour of love will place themselves in communication with him without delay.

THE Göttingische Gelehrten Anzeigen, No. 37, reviews Lewes's "Aristotle;" and No. 38, Cureton's "Ancient Syriac Documents" and Mouhot's "Travels in the Central Parts of Indo-China;" Westermann's Monatshefte for October has a paper by H. W. J. Thiersch on the "Character of Charles I. of England," and another, by F. Bodenstedt, upon Hamlet ;-the Ausland, No. 40, "The Peopling of Arabia according to Palgrave,"
Brahman and Buddhist Notions of Eclipses," the "Shell-Money of India," and "Ascent of Penangungau and Ardjuno in East Africa;"— and the *Literarisches Centralblatt*, No. 42, Schleiermacher's "Life of Jesus," and "Ane Compendious and Breve Tractate concernyng ye Office and Dewtie of Kyngis," &c., the reprint of Lauder's rare poem published in 1556;—the Literarisches Centralblatt, No. 43, reviews Dr. Shirley's Catalogue of the Original Works of John Wycliff, in which the reviewer calls Dr. Shirley's attention to a codex, said to be in the autograph of Huss, containing five unpublished philosophical works of Wycliff, written in Latin, not noticed by that gentleman, which is pre-served in the Royal Library at Stockholm;—the Preussische Jahrbücher, xvi. 4, gives an account of the Civil War in America, and the Election of President in 1864, by a German Eye-witness; -the Deutscher Museum, No. 41, the "Fifty Years' Jubilee of the German Burschenschaft at Jena"; — the Magazin für die Literatur des Auslandes, No. 42, "The Weimar Theatre under Goethe," "The United States of North America," and "Miss Yonge's New Novel";—the Bremer Sonntageblatt, No. 41, "Early Spanish Romances," by Ad. Lann;—the Natur, No. 40, "Zoology of the Island of Borcum";—and the Ausland, No. 41, "Richardson's Attempts to Resuscitate the Dead."

Professor Masson is to be entertained at dinner by his friends at the Freemasons' Tavern on Saturday next, previous to his departure for Edinburgh. Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., will take the

Mr. Robert Cowtan, many years known as collector of the books to which the National Collection is entitled under the Copyright Act, for the British Museum, has in the press, for private circulation, "Passages from the Autobiography of a Man of Kent, together with a few rough Pen and Ink Sketches by the same hand, of some of the people he has met, the changes he has seen, and the places he has visited, 1817—1864."

Messes. Moxon and Co. will publish early next month a volume of poems by the late Mr. E. J. Armstrong, President of the Undergraduate Philosophical Society, and formerly a member of the College Historical Society, at the special request of which societies the poems are

PLEASANT gift-books are all the volumes of Messrs. Smith and Elder's "Illustrated Editions of Popular Works," including several of the productions of George Eliot, Mrs. Gaskell, Miss Mulock, Wilkie Collins, Anthony Trollope, and others. Fifteen volumes have already appeared, the last two being Mrs. Gaskell's, "The Grey Woman, and other Tales," and "Romantic Tales," by the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman." Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. have added Mr. Wilkie Collins's "Dead Secret" to their half-crown series of Standard Works, and "Lena, or the Silent Women," by the author of "Beyminstre," to their shilling "Monthly Volumes of Standard Authors."

Messes. Routledge and Sons' "Every Boy's Annual," edited by Mr. Edmund Routledge, is a book which all boys at school should seek to possess. Out-door games and sports, athletic exercises, indoor recreation and work, tales of trial and adventure, laughable stories, wit, fun, and mirth, and, indeed, a little of everything that boys like to read about or understand, make up the contents of this prettily-

illustrated volume, the plates of which consist of clever woodcuts, and coloured illustrations of out-door sports and recreations. Messrs. Routledge also issue an edition of Charles Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare," with coloured illustrations by John Gilbert, a charming book for English boys and girls, and a pleasant introduction to the study of Shakespeare.

Mr. Samuel Lucas will edit a selection of Tom Hood's poems for Moxon's series of Minia-

ture Poets.

Mr. CYRUS REDDING has in the press "Past Celebrities whom I have Known;" containing anecdotes of Canning, Turner, Hazlitt, Talma, Colton, Parr, Walcot, Beckford, Sheil, Clare, Horace Smith, Cuvier, Haydon, Wilkie, Belzoni, Madame De Staël, O'Connell, Cobden, &c.

Messrs. Groombridge and Sons will publish, in November, a new Christmas book by the authors of "A Bunch of Keys," entitled "Rates and Taxes, and how they were Collected;" to

be edited by Thomas Hood.

Messrs. Rivington have issued a prospectus of "The Annotated Book of Common Prayer." It will be edited by the Rev. J. H. Blunt, author of "Directorium Pastorale." The whole of the prayers will be carefully printed from a collation of several sealed books, the original text being set side by side, and historical, ritual, and expository foot-notes will occupy a large portion of every page. According to the specimen page, there will be separate essays of similar character, amongst other things setting forth the principles of ceremonial worship, the modes of conducting it, and the accessories used in its performance. The last section will contain some illustrations by Mr. G. E. Street.

Mr. A. W. Bennett is about to add to his series of "Photographic Gift-books" an edition of Scott's "Marmion," and a work by Mr. F. G. Stephens, entitled "Flemish Relics, Architectural, Legendary, and Pictorial;" also two smaller works on the "Ruined Abbeys and Castles of Yorkshire," and "The Border."

Mr. Stock will publish "Calls to the Cross," sermons by Mr. A. Mursell, of Manchester;—"Jehovah's Jewels," by Dr. Leechman;—"The Logic of Life and Death," by Harris B. Cowper;—"Words of Wisdom for the Sons of Toil," by Mr. G. W. Conder, of Leeds;—"Lending to the Lord," by Mr. W. Hickman Smith;—"The Christian Brave," a life of Mr. Roberts, Evangelist in England and America;—"Compensation and other Poems," by Emily Jane May;—"The Higher Ministry of Nature," by Mr. S. G. Ingram, Richmond;—and a new edition of "Bate's Cyclopædia of Illustrations."

Messes. Saunders, Otley, and Co. have in preparation a volume of poems by Mrs. T. K. Hervey, widow of the late editor of the Athenœum, a narrative of personal adventure, by Captain Henderson, entitled "The Soldier of Three Queens," and a third edition of Dr. Chapman's translation of the "Greek Pastoral Poets."

MR. WILLIAM P. NIMMO'S announcements include "Pen and Pencil Pictures from the Poets," a series of forty illustrations on wood, with descriptive selections from the writings of the poets; —"Gems of Literature: Rare, Elegant, and Suggestive," appropriately illustrated with upwards of one hundred original engravings, drawn expressly for this work ;- "Lights in Art: a Review of Ancient and Modern Pictures, with Critical Remarks on the Present State, Treatand Preservation of Oil Paintings, Artist :-- "James Meetwell : being a True and Unvarnished Story of Real Life, Written by him who Experienced it";—"Celebrated Characters, Sketched by Celebrated Men";-"The Diverting History of John Gilpin," by William Cowper; illustrated with numerous full-page illustrations, designed by Charles A. Doyle, and printed in colours by Schenck and Macfarlane;—and of Nimmo's Two Shilling Series: "The Land of Promise: Travels in Palestine and the Holy Land";—"The Far North, Explorations in the Arctic Regions";—"The Young Men of the Bible";—and "The Blade and the Ear: a Book for Young People."

Mr. Hardwicke's announcements for the season include "The Book of the Pike," by Cholmondeley Pennell;—"A History of the Toilet and Cosmetic Arts," by Arnold J. Cooley;—"Ferns, British and Foreign," by John Smith, of Kew;—the Completion of Professor Buckman's Work "On Science and Practice in Farm Cultivation;"—"Fossil Sponges," by J. S. Mackie, F.G.S.;—"A Plain and Easy Account of the British Reptiles," by M. C. Cooke;—"Of British Land and Fresh Water Mollusks," by Ralph Tate, F.G.S.;—"Of British

Beetles," by W. Groser;—"The Cattle Plague," by Professor Gamgee;—a fully-revised "Report of the Papers and Discussions at the British Association;"—"The Industries of Birmingham and its Neighbourhood," under the direction of a committee in connexion with the British Association. The medical works include: "Australia for the Consumptive Invalid," by J. Baker Brown, jun.;—"Uterine Surgery Based on the Management of the Sterile Condition," by J. Marion Sims, M.D.;—"On Diseases of the Larynx," by Dr. Morell Mackenzie;—a translation of Duchenne "On Localized Electrization," by Mr. John Radcliffe;—and of Trousseau's "Clinical Medicine," by Dr. Bazin;—"On Some Varieties and Effects of Cancerous Disease of Bone," by William Hickman, M.B.;—"On Flooding after Delivery," by Dr. Lumley Earl;—"On Local Treatment of Diseases of the Respiratory Organs," by Dr. Beigel;—"On the Cure of Clubfoot without Cutting Tendons," by Mr. R. Barwell.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN and Co. announce a "gem edition" of "Sonnets and Songs," by William Shakespeare; also, "Essays on Art," including essays on Mulready, Dyce, Holman Hunt, and Herbert, by Francis Turner Palgrave; "Romances and Minor Poems," by Sheriff Bell; a new edition of Lady Chatterton's poem, "Leanore," printed on thick toned paper, with title and frontispiece engraved by Jeens; "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," by Lewis Carroll, with illustration by John Tenniel, engraved by the Dalziel Brothers; a reissue of the "States-man's Year-Book;" and a book which is likely to attract considerable attention, "Ecce Homo; a Survey of the Life and Work of Jesus Christ,' in two volumes octavo. We understand the same publishers have in preparation a new novel by Professor Kingsley, entitled, "Hereward, the Last of the English;" also one by his brother, Mr. Henry Kingsley, entitled, "Leighton Court." We also notice that the Hon. Mrs. Norton will commence a new novel in the January number of Macmillan's Magazine.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN have completed the sale of 50,000 copies of their "Globe" edition of "Shakespeare," a bibliographical fact which we have great pleasure in recording.

INTRODUCTION TO MODERN CHEMISTRY.

Introduction to Modern Chemistry, Experimental and Theoretic. By A. W. Hofmann, LL.D., F.R.S., V.P.C.S., &c. (Walton & Maberley). NGLAND has recently lost, for a time L at any rate, the services of one who, for a period of twenty years, has worked incessantly to promote the cause of scientific chemistry in the country. Dr. Hofmann accepted the Professorship of the then infant College of Chemistry, he undertook virtually several distinct and most important tasks. In the first place, the success of the newly-founded institution depended almost entirely upon his skill, temper, and industry; and the high position which it now occupies is ascribed most justly to his devotion to its interests. But not only did the future of the college rest in his The education, and, as a consehands. quence, the career, of each individual student who entered its walls were thrown as solemn responsibilities upon him. If he had not been singularly and markedly successful as a teacher, the most brilliant career as a discoverer would not have enabled him to fulfil his duties aright. As it is, we have but to point to the long list of eminent chemists of which the rolls of the college can already boast, in order to prove that the teacher has been one of no ordinary power.

But Dr. Hofmann's great work, that which most of all entitles him to the gratitude of Englishmen, has been the share he has taken in the building of the noble edifice of modern chemistry. For the last few years chemistry has been, as Dr. Hofmann reminds us, in a state of transition. New truths, and new developments of older ones, have been springing up on all sides, and the result has been what it usually is at periodical intervals in the history of scientific progress. The framework of theory, by which the various facts were grouped together, was found to be insufficient to bear the weight of the superstructure, and a new one therefore be-

came necessary. Led by the few masterminds in Europe, chemists have devoted themselves with extraordinary energy to this task, and the effect has been, that no period in the history of science has ever been marked by so many attempts at rational generalization. Many abortive efforts have, of course, been made, and numberless schemes have been propounded which have hardly lived beyond their birth. Many, too, have been the doubts and contradictions which have attended the growth of the new views; and even now, when a firm basis seems at last laid, cases of perplexity are by far too numerous. Still, little by little, the structure has progressed, every intelligent worker doing something to help it on, until, within the last year or two, it has acquired sufficient stability to justify us in regarding it as a "system."

Dr. Hofmann at an early period embraced the new views warmly, and few have done more than he to establish them, both by the discovery of new facts and by generalizations founded upon them. Hence the peculiar value, at the present time, of the little book before us. It has, as the author tells us, no pretensions to an encyclopædic character. The reader must not turn to it, as to an ordinary manual, to find the practical details of the science. It is in the truest sense an introduction to chemistry; and, as such, it possesses the highest value, a value which is equally great to the student new to the

science, and to the lecturer who has spent years in teaching it.

The sketch which our limits enable us to offer of the subject-matter of the book must of necessity be brief and imperfect; but this is of the less importance since the original will be sure to be read by every chemist. The fundamental notion of modern chemical theory is this: All elementary gases combine with one another by volume, either in equal measures or in proportions which bear a simple numerical relation to equal measures. The first three lectures of the book before us are mainly occupied with elaborate experimental proofs of the above thesis, as exemplified in three important and typical gases-hydrochloric acid, water-gas (steam), and ammonia.

It is clearly shown by analysis and synthesis, and always by volumetric methods, that hydrochloric acid is formed by the union of one volume of hydrogen with one volume of chlorine; water-gas by the union of two volumes of hydrogen with one of oxygen; and ammonia by the union of three of hydrogen with one of nitrogen. The study of combining volumes is thus made to precede that of combining weights, which last, indeed, flows naturally from that of volumes, and from a knowledge of the relative specific gravities (volume weights) of the gases. All elementary gases (with a few exceptions) have the same combining volume as that of hydrogen. This volume is, therefore, called 1, and is conveniently symbolized by a square.

Squares of equal size represent the equal umes of different elements which combine with one another, and the constitution of the three typical compounds before named may, therefore, be illustrated by uniting 1 square of hydrogen to 1 square of chlorine, 2 squares of hydrogen to 1 of oxygen, and 3 squares of hydrogen to 1 of nitrogen. The student is now prepared for the idea of combining weights. Gases differ very much in weight, and if we inscribe in the squares the weights of 1 volume, hydrogen being called 1, these numbers must of necessity represent the combining weights of the gases. Thus if the hydrogen square be 1, the chlorine square will be 35.5, the oxygen square 16, and the nitrogen square 14; these numbers representing not only the specific gravities of the gases as compared with hydrogen, but also their combining weights.

In the fourth lecture we learn how the squares may be replaced by symbols, and these symbols grouped into formulæ, by which every conceivable chemical change may be represented. We do not by any means intend to assert that all this is new,

but only that it is placed clearly and strongly, and in language easy of comprehension. The book is, indeed, throughout a model of lucid and elegant composition, and although the author ascribes this in some measure to Mr. F. O. Ward—by whom it was in part arranged—yet those who know Dr. Hofmann's style of writing and lecturing can trace it at every turn.

As soon as this inter-dependence of weight and volume is understood, it is easy to perceive that the gas-volume of a body may be inferred in many cases where it is not possible to determine it directly, and hence we find many substances which are not themselves volatile, described as belonging to one of the gas-types. We are thus led to study the use of three or four simple types as a means of classification. This is the classification now almost universally adopted under one form or other, and our author gives a simple, although of course imperfect, account of it.

Lecture Eight contains an admirable account of the French metrical system of weights and measures—the best account by far we have seen in an English book. It will be found interesting by many non-

chemical readers.

The distinction now usually admitted between atoms and molecules, with the doctrine of the dual nature of free elements, is discussed in Lecture Nine, and a highly philosophical and interesting chain of reasoning brought forward in support of the latter view. We cannot say that the arguments seem to us to be conclusive upon some points, but they are well stated and of great weight.

The doctrine of atomicities (re-named by Hofmann "quantivalence"), of substitution, and of the formation of compounds by direct addition, occupy the last three lectures; and a clear and succinct summary of the whole course concludes this, the most excellent introduction to a science that we have seen

for some time.

THE STUDY OF MATHEMATICS AT CAMBRIDGE.

A Treatise on the Analytical Geometry of Three Dimensions. By George Salmon, D.D., Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Dublin. Second Edition. (Dublin: Hodges, Smith, & Co.)

An Elementary Treatise on Solid Geometry. By W. S. Aldis, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, & Co.; Bell & Daldy.)

ARS longa, vita brevis. Science increases; the term of residence at the University remains unchanged, and every year makes it less possible for the student to keep pace with the advance of science. It is a constantly increasing difficulty how best to adapt mathematics to the course of study. Sooner or later the question must be the subject of legislation by the governing body. Meanwhile the only limits to the student's toils are placed by the examiner in his questions, or by the author in his text-book.

Opinions differ as to the mode of dealing with this difficulty. One large class seeks the remedy in diminishing the number of the subjects or the extent to which they are to be read; another looks rather to new and better methods of treatment to facilitate the learner's progress. These extreme views are variously combined by others; and the character of an examination paper or of a text-book varies with the writer's leaning to the

one or other opinion.

The two books before us illustrate these opposite tendencies. That they treat of the same subject, is almost all that they have in

common.

It is not merely that the one is elementary and the other designed for advanced students; that one is a selection from previous authors, the other full of original matter; or that one is for the most part analytical, the other rich in purely geometrical investigations. Neither is it altogether because one comes from Cambridge and the other from Dublin, or that one represents the subject as a means of education and the other as a science: for Dr. Salmon's work is intended for the

student and for the Cambridge man, not less than for his contemporary at Dublin. In addition to and beyond all these, is the difference caused by the authors taking opposite sides on the question of the plan of a text book. Mr. Aldis's treatise does not extend the science, because it was not intended to do so, its aim being purely educational. The investigations contain no original or ingenious artifices, because these are opposed to the principle on which the book was written. It professes to confine the student to the elements, rather than introduce him to the higher branches by any less rigorous methods. When we have added that it is "an elementary treatise," designed to include only "as much as the majority of Cambridge students have time to master thoroughly," we shall have given a fair description of it. Exception may be taken by some to the author's choice of propositions for the text, but what he has given are on the whole simply and clearly exhibited. At the same time, we think that an undue preference has been given to analysis over pure geometry, and that the author's dread of anything like artifice has driven him into investigations which are often painfully tedious.

He has saved the tutor much of that "tempering the breeze to the shorn lamb," which consists of marking for weaker pupils certain articles to be omitted, yet even Mr. Aldis's selection will be itself selected from. We remember one reason, of a wholly practical character, which used to be given for such omissions—theoretically it was, perhaps, inexcusable. Certain articles were condemned, not because they were difficult or unsound or treated better elsewhere, but simply as being too long. "If you write out these in an examination you will write little else."

Such a sentence must inevitably be passed upon the greater part of pages 120—135, which treat of curvature, even though he that cannot find time to master them would probably find them, after all, less difficult than the shorter discussions of other writers.

For students of moderate ability, perhaps, the least satisfactory part of the work is the collection of examples. Such men require easy illustrations rather than extensions of what they have been reading. To consign to the examples the more difficult problems in the subject shortens the book, indeed, but is anything but an advantage to the reader.

If Mr. Aldis's work widens the breach between the science of mathematics itself and its use for educational purposes, that of Dr. Salmon combines the two at the risk of sacrificing the interests of the student to the extension of the science. He runs into the opposite extreme of adopting every possible means to carry the student with all speed along the earlier stages of his journey, that he may have the more time and strength for those beyond. It may or may not happen that the shorter method is more intimately connected with the nature of the question, to be solved. Often this is so. Some will maintain that we ought naturally to expect it; and will refer, by way of illustration, to the investigations on curvature, to designate which we must borrow the word "intrinsic" from similar processes in plain geometry. An attempt to enumerate the many excellencies of Dr. Salmon's work would be quite superfluous. As a guide to the higher branches of the subject, and as a book of reference, it stands alone amongst text - books. whilst it will be carefully studied by few, and have certain particular articles selected from it for the use of a few more, Mr. Aldis's will be the text-book of a large proportion of the less ambitious Cambridge students, whose capacity he has measured by his shorter treatise.

The Health Resorts of the South of France. By Edwin Lee, M.D. Second Edition, with alterations and additions.—Nice, and its Climate. By E. Lee, M.D. Second Edition, ib. (Adams.) 1865.

—Fresh editions of these little books will be very welcome just at this time, when people are

beginning to consider where to spend their winter. The additions to each volume are for the most part the same, consisting principally of an appendix on pulmonary disorder, and some meteorological tables.

Gessammelte Beiträge zur Anatomie und Physiologie der Pflanzen. Von H. Karsten. (Berlin: F. Dümmler.)—A quarto volume of 450 pages, illustrated by twenty-five plates, in which Dr. Hermann Karsten, of Berlin, has reproduced the anatomical and physiological papers, which, since 1843, he has published in various German periodicals and transactions. They relate principally to the vegetable cell, the reproductive organs of various plants, and the chemical constituents of vegetable organisms. The author has the reputation of being rather flighty, and his critics have often caught him napping. We should have been glad, if, before republishing these papers, he had once more gone over his observations, and in foot-notes briefly told us whether he is able to maintain all his original views, or is obliged to modify or abandon some of them. It would have greatly added to their value. Now and then we notice that he complains of his views having been misunderstood and misrepresented. It may be so, and should prompt him to write with greater clearness.

The World Before the Deluge. By Louis Figuier. Translated from the Fourth French Edition. (Chapman & Hall.)—This very pretty book is meant as a popular introduction to geology; and, as such, has already done good service. It is pleasant to see the work of science gratefully accepted by religious minds. There is plenty of common ground on which both can meet, without raising controversies no man can as yet decide. Starting with the nebulous theory, M. Figuier traces, in a series of illustrations, the condition of the earth from its first circulation in a gaseous state, through the condensation and rainfall on the primitive globe, down to the present epoch. The imagination is assisted by ideal pictures of the more striking periods of the earth's history. Perhaps the restorations of much of the ancient flora of the earth are the most authentic, and they are not so hackneyed as figures of the iguanodon and the mammoth.

THE COMPASS OBSERVATORY AT CRONSTADT.

THE prevalence of iron-built ships is gradually inducing all maritime nations to study the effect exercised on the compass by the neighbourhood of iron, and we are in hopes that if our iron monsters are of no other use, they will at least assist in spreading a knowledge of the laws of magnetism, not only throughout our navies, but also through our merchant service.

Russia, as usual, has not been slow in perceiving the importance of this knowledge, and the naval authorities of that empire have already established a compass observatory in Cronstadt. This institution is under the able direction of Captain J. Belavenetz, of the Russian Navy, and is intended to serve the following purposes:—

1st. The investigation of the magnetic state of iron ships.

iron ships.

2nd. To select the place for the compass on board of each iron ship of the Russian Navy by knowing the magnetic condition of each ship.

3rd. To arrange the surrounding iron near the compass in such a way that its influence shall as much as possible counteract the influence of the body of the ship.

4th. To give magnetical instruction to the officers of such ships.

5th. To bring together and discuss all the observations made in the Russian Navy on board of such ships.

6th. By means of publications to make known

to the world at large what is done on this subject, either in Russia or in other countries. The first of these publications has already been issued. Of course, we wish it had been written in English; but since it is in Russian, we shall have much pleasure in giving our readers a short sketch of the contents of this very interesting volume. The book is dedicated to the Grand Duke Alexis, the second son of the Emperor, who is educated to be a seaman; and is published by order of the Russian naval authorities. The title and the first few pages are also in English; for the author (Capt. Belavenetz) cannot commence without a short biographical sketch of our countryman, Mr. Archibald Smith, to whom all navies are so much indebted for his researches on the influence of

iron. In this book is contained all the information necessary for a practical work on the deviation of the compass, with plain examples, showing the seaman how to work out each formula. The work is divided into four parts.

The first part contains instructions for observing the deviation of the compass

The second part gives the method of reducing the observed deviation and computing the magnetic elements of the ship, with all examples necessary for ships either at anchor or at sea, ending with tables to be used in the calculation.

The third part contains the mathematical theory of the deviation. This part is translated from the second edition, third appendix, of our "British Admiralty Manual," written by Mr.

Archibald Smith.

The fourth part is composed of four appendices. In the first appendix we have an investigation of the magnetic condition of the iron battery Pervenetz. (This has been read before the Royal Society, and an abstract published, but it is illustrated more fully in the present work.) Here we have a full account of the observations which it is necessary to make on board of such a ship during the time of its construction on the stocks, in order to select the place of the compass, and to indicate the best position of the surrounding iron used in construction; and we have also an account of the first instance in which the position of an iron-plated vessel has been reversed after launching and during the completion of the process of plating, in order to demagnetize it preparatory to its going to sea—a process which was very successful in the case of the Pervenetz.

The second appendix is most interesting, and not without a spice of scientific romance. In this part a mysterious object is also introduced, which we shall call the "body." The "body" is built of iron, it is thirty feet long, five feet high, and only four feet broad. It is, in fact, a gigantic hollow magnet (we wonder what will ultimately come of it), and the idea is to make observations in the interior of a hollow magnet with the view of

putting a compass in it if necessary. The following experiments have been made

with this "body"

Firstly. The "body" has been put on a platform which turns round like the dome of an astronomical observatory, and which can be turned by one man to any magnetic direction indicated on the platform below.

Secondly. The investigations outside the "body" are (a), to determine in forty-five points of the vertical plane passing through the longest axis up and down at different heights, the deviation, the horizontal and the vertical force caused by the "body;" in other words, to make a full magnetic observation at these points; (b) outside, in 150 different points, to determine the deflection of the needle owing to the "body." These experiments clearly show that the "body" is one

Thirdly. Inside the "body" at ten different points to determine the deviation of the compass for every ten degrees azimuth as the "body" is turned round. Also, to make full magnetic observations at eight principal parts of the com-

Fourthly. To find by these observations the best place for the binnacle in the "body," and to place the compass there, and also to place one on the top of the body at the same vertical line, and to make full magnetic observations at these two points. These have been made : "body" level; "body" heeling to right, "body" heel-

ing to left, about 10° each way.

Fifthly. To find the change in the magnetism of the "body" during a long period of its remaining in the same direction, (b) also the change produced by hammering the "body" for

three days.

Sixthly. Repeat the observations on the "body" after this process of hammering—"body" level, and heeling right and left about

10° each way.

Seventhly. During the same time on shore, in the apparatus called the "deviation apparatus," magnets and soft iron, which can be turned round, are so placed as to produce the same deviation as that produced by the iron "body" on the compass in it. Also, by the application of soft iron to increase the earth's horizontal force acting on the compass.

Eighthly. By putting the "deviation apparatus" into the iron "body" in place of the binnacle, and surrounding it with the aforesaid magnets and soft iron, Captain Belavenetz has been able not only to destroy the effect of the iron "body" on the deviation, but also he increases the horizontal force, which had been excreases the horizontal force, which had been exceedingly diminished in the "body."

Ninthly. The last observation was to deter-

mine with the magnets and soft iron the remaining part of the disturbing force-"body" level, and heeling right and left about 10° each way. All this forms the second appendix. The third appendix consists of observations of deviation made in the Russian fleet during 1864, and the fourth contains an account of the different pamphlets and books written on the deviation of the compass by English, French, and Russian

Finally, a book of blank forms, diagrams, and dygopaynes accompanies this useful publication, which it will be observed is eminently practical

in all its parts.

Although our patriotism may make us congratulate ourselves that England was the first nation to investigate this subject theoretically, as well as practically (except in the detection of the general mathematical formulæ, where a great French mathematician led the way), yet the interests of humanity as well as of science cause us to rejoice that other nations are promoting this interesting and important branch of science with the zeal and success which appear in the present volume.

We learn that the author, Captain Belavenetz, has been presented by the Emperor with a gold compass, set with thirty-two brilliants, one for each point, in acknowledgment of his useful and scientific experiments; and we cannot do better than recommend this brilliant generosity to our home authorities, who, we venture to say, will have no difficulty in finding suitable re-

SCIENCE.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION. REPORTS.

Report of the Committee Appointed to Explore the Marine Fauna and Flora of the Coasts of South Devon and Cornwall. By Mr. Spence Bate.—Among the fish, the most interesting observations that had been made were those of the file fish (Balistes capriscus), which is the second that has been recorded as having been taken within the limits of the British coasts, and which offers in some respects a different appearance from the figures given of it by Willoughby and Yarrell. But the particulars of the difference as well as the manner of its capture will be given by Mr. Jonathan Couch. F.L.S., in his work on the British fishes now in the course of publication.

The short-finned tunny (Thynnus brachyterus, Cuvier) was also taken, one specimen being procured from Mevagissy and a second off Polperro. This is the first time that this species has been recorded as a visitor to our shores. Of both these rare fish Mr. Couch has made careful drawings. Also from the Trawls a specimen of the eagle ray

has been obtained.

Among the mollusca of more or less interest, have been observed specimens of Octopus vulgaris of very large size, also Loligo media, as well as Sepia elegans and S. officinalis, and the ova of a Sepia containing a rudimentary shell apparently differing from those of S. officinalis. A beautiful specimen of Idalia elegans was taken off the mouth of the Yealm river, more brilliant in its rosy colours than the figure given by Messrs. Alder and Hancock, and also differing in having the posterior extremity of the foot terminating in three, instead of in a single point. Also a specimen of Avicula was taken that was at least half an inch longer than the greatest length assigned to it by Professor G. Forbes and Mr. Hanley.

Among the crustacea, the most interesting observations made related to the genus Achœus; the species A. chranchii, which Bell considers to be rare, and gives only two habitats, namelysouth of Devon and south of Ireland-is by no means scarce. There also appears to be a second species, that differs from the preceding in having the hairs on the limbs curled into hooks, and enjoying the luxury of clothing itself with weed. Several specimens of Pagurus dillwynii were also taken, most commonly on the sandy beach of Teignmouth, where they appear to burrow in the sand.

Two species of Caradina were also taken; one appears to be the Hyppolite varians of Leach; the other, C. tenuis, is new. Several sessile-eyed crustacea of interest were also taken, as also a specimen of Chondrocanthus zeia attached to a specimen of Synapta.

Many annelids that appear to have been undescribed were taken, including the Aphrodita hystrix, which appears to be rather rare; the common species being A. aculeata, whereas in Guernsey the reverse appears to hold good, A. hystrix being the common species, A. aculeata being rather rare.

Among the Echinodermata the most interesting appear to be the presence of Luidia sarsii and Amphuria filiformis, which have only hitherto been taken on the northern shores of Great Britain.

Among the Alcyonidiadæ, two species in addition to A. gelatinosum have been taken, to which no reference can be found. One is shaped much like the coral Eschara cormu-cervi; the other that of an oval mallet on a slender foot-

Luminous Meteors' Committee .- Since the meeting last year, the maps for the use of observers of meteors have been distributed, and it is now contemplated to diagram the paths of the 2,000 meteors recorded by the committee, Coulvier-Gravier, Heis (of Munster), and other observers. In addition to the catalogue of the meteors observed, the report deals with the recent additions to our knowledge of this subject. These have already been dealt with in our

Lunar Committee .- We have lately chronicled some of the doings of this committee. The new map now in process of construction, seventy-five inches in diameter, was exhibited. The committee prayed for a larger grant, in order that Mr. Birt, who has shown himself to be such a zealous observer, may be freed from much of the routine work which now falls upon him.

Report on the Analysis of the Gases evolved from the Bath Waters. By Dr. Williamson, F.R.I.).—This investigation was undertaken at the suggestion of Dr. Daubeny, and at the request of the Association, with a view of ascertaining if the gases evolved from mineral waters are constant in quantity, or subject to variation. Although there are four springs at Bath which evolve gases with the hot water, there were difficulties in obtaining access to all the springs, and the gases from the King's Bath were accordingly alone collected and analyzed by Dr. Williamson. A detailed account of the method followed was then given. The water was collected and transmitted to London, where the gases were transferred to an eudiometer and examined. Dr. Daubeny had made an examination of these gases some thirty years ago, and the results of the analysis of Dr. Williamson corresponded closely with those of Dr. Daubeny; the principal difference being in the detection of marsh gas by Dr. Williamson.

Dr. Daubeny referred to the presence of nitrogen, and stated that the element was found in mineral springs by Priestley, and also referred to the bearing of chemical analysis of mineral springs on theories as to the origin of volcanic action.

Dr. Frankland referred to the liberation of carbonic oxide by pyrogallic acid, when used for the absorption of oxygen, and inquired if this evo-lution of gas had been taken note of in Dr. Williamson's analysis.

Dr. Williamson said that the quantity of carbonic oxide evolved was so small in comparison with the quantity of oxygen present, that it was not necessary to take notice of it.

In reply to a question by Dr. Russell, Dr. Crace Calvert stated that he had made numerous experiments on the quantity of carbonic oxide evolved by pyrogallic acid, and perhaps the most important result was that the quantity of carbonic oxide increased with the temperature at which the absorption was made.

Balloon Committee. - Up to the last meeting of the Association twenty-two ascents had been made, seventeen of which took place in June, July, August, and September, and five only in other months. Mr. Glaisher devoted his efforts to securing as many ascents as possible between October and April, but only succeeded in three instances-viz., on December 1st and 30th, 1864, and February 27th this year. The results differed greatly from those obtained in summer, and showed that the laws of temperature varied at different seasons. The winds prevailing in the upper regions of the air were W. and S.W. in January and February. This interfered with the ascents which were made from Woolwich. Since then Mr. Glaisher had been engaged in preparing for night ascents. The winter ascents proved the constancy of south-west currents during the winter months, and this had also been confirmed by observations at the Royal Observatory. The spectroscope was directed to the sun at every opportunity, and a fine spectrum, with lines, more numerous than those seen from the earth, and better defined, was always observed. The spectrum usually extended from A to far beyond H, and was visible with a much narrower opening of the slit than on the ground, and lines could be clearly resolved which

were not visible from the earth. A blackened bulb thermometer, fully exposed, placed near one, carefully screened from the sun, generally read the same as the latter. No tinge of ozone was shown on the test papers. It would appear that the high temperature we experience in winter seems to be very much due to the prevalence of the warm current before alluded to, which in its course meets with no obstruction in coming to us, but blows directly to us and to Norway over the Atlantic. These winds could not reach France till they passed over the whole of Spain and the range of the Pyrenees; and by the time they had crossed that mountainous district they were so much cooled, that France could derive comparatively little benefit from them, and hence apparently her more severe winters. It was probable that in England we enjoyed a much milder climate during winter than other lands in the same latitude, owing to these winds. With regard to the night ascents contemplated by Mr. Glaisher, it was remarked in the report that to take such observations it was imperatively necessary to have some means of illumination, so that the instruments could be read. Various suggestions had been made on this point, but the best plan seemed to be to employ a Davy lamp. Two such lamps had been made for Mr. Glaisher of copper, so that the magnets in their vicinity might not be affected. Experiments had shown that these lamps might be used with perfect safety, and that they kept well alight, besides affording a source of grateful warmth not before possessed. All necessary arrangements were now made for night observations. After the reading of the report Mr. Glaisher remarked that a few months previously he had thought this would be his last report on balloon ascents. He had devoted his entire leisure for three years to these experi-ments, and every day he was so occupied was a day taken from the month's holiday allowed him as an attaché of the Royal Observatory. As, very properly, no personal expenses were allowed by the Association, he had had to pay them himself, and he had also had to defray the cost of the necessarily heavy calculations. He felt, therefore, that he had performed his share of these experiments, and that they might cease for the present, and fresh ones be made at a future day by others. But on seeing, in preparing this year's report, how deficient they still were in winter and morning ascents, but, above all, in night operations, he had determined, in consultation with the committee, to make some night ascents at once, if possible.

Report of the Committee on Electrical Standards. Read by Mr. Fleeming Lukin. -- [The abstract of this Report has reached us too late for inser-

tion.—ED.]

Report on Dredging in the Channel Islands (Mollusca). By Mr. J. Gwynn Jeffreys, F.R.S. Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate the Marine Fauna of the Channel Islands. Read by the Rev. A. Merle Norman.

Section A.-MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL

SCIENCE.

On a New Form of Spectrum-Microscope. By Mr. H. C. Sorby, F.R.S.—The value of this instrument consists in the employment of a peculiar form of compound directvision prism, placed over the eye-piece. The slit is fixed in the focus of the upper lens of the eye-piece, and there is a reflecting prism so arranged that the spectrum of a minute object placed on the stage of the microscope may be compared with that of any other larger object held on a stage attached to the eye-piece. By rising a binocular microscope, the inclined tube can be employed to find and examine the object; and, on removing the prism, it is easy to see that the object is correctly placed in front of the slit. Then, on placing the prism over the eye-piece, as if it were a Nicol's prism, the spectrum can be seen to great advantage. The author stated that by this means the spectra of minute crystals can be easily compared with that of their solutions; the spectra of minute blow-pipe beads can be most conveniently studied, and the characteristic spectrum of such coloured bodies as blood can be seen by reflected light, with no greater quantity than one millionth part of a grain.

On the Refraction - Equivalent of Car-bon. By Dr. J. H. Gladstone, F.R.S.— Every substance in nature, as is well known, is capable of bending a ray of light which falls upon it at an angle; and this power can be expressed numerically by what is termed the refractive index (μ) . This index, minus unity, divided by the specific gravity, or $\frac{\mu-1}{d}$, is

named specific refractive energy; and in a communication made two years ago by the Rev. T. Pelham Dale and the author, it was shown that this property of a body remains re-markably constant, notwithstanding most important physical and chemical changes. In a recent paper Professor Landoldt has given the name "refraction-equivalent" to the specific refractive energy multiplied by the chemical equivalent, or $P^{\mu-1}$ It is easy to calculate the refraction equivalent of many of

carbon was taken at 12; and the calculations were made for the brightest part of the spectrum. Diamond—that is pure carbon—gives a refraction equivalent varying, according to the speci-men examined, from 4.85 to 5.18. The refraction equivalent of carbon may be deduced from the refraction equivalents of carbonic acid and

the chemical elements, but the author confined

his illustrations to carbon, as that which has

been most fully investigated. The equivalent of

carbonic oxide in the following manner:-CO₄ 10.03 CO 7.53 by difference by difference

The numbers given for these gases are calculated from Dulong's observations. The refrac-tion equivalent of pure sulphur having been determined at 16, that of carbon can be thus calculated from bisulphide of carbon :-

 CS_2 35.0

In a similar manner carbon in chloride of carbon was found to have a refraction equivalent of 5·15, in cyanogen of about 5·2, and in sugar of about 4.8. The combination CH₂, the common increment in homologous series, was found to have a refraction equivalent varying only between 7.4 and 7.9 in a great many instances examined; as calculated from olefant gas this compound was 7.5, from amyline 7.5, and from paraffin 7.7. The two equivalents of hydrogen were valued at 2.6, which subtracted from 7.6, leaves for the carbon 5.0. Landoldt by other methods of difference arrived at the same number 5.0 as the refraction equivalent of this element. Yet in benzole, and a few very dispersive substances, the carbon gave somewhat higher numbers the carbon gave somewhat higher numbers. The great concurrence of these observations therefore shows that carbon exerts the same refractive influence on the rays of light, whether it be crystallized as a brilliant, or combined with other elements in such forms as sugar, or paraffine, alcohol, carbonic acid, or coal gas.

Section B.—CHEMICAL SCIENCE.

On a New Form of Spectrum Apparatus, as Applied to the Microscope. By Mr. H. C. Sorby. -An abstract of this communication will be found in Section A.

On the Sublimed Oligist of Vesuvius and its Artificial Production. By Dr. T. Phipson.

A Few Words on Sponges, as a Source of Bromine and of Nitrogen. By Dr. T. Phipson.

On the Rotatory Power of Several Essential Oils. By Dr. de Vry.-After reference to a paper by Dr. Gladstone on a similar subject, Dr. de Vry described the character of his experiments, and the results obtained. He found that while oils obtained from the leaves of a plant caused the ray to rotate in one direction, that obtained from the flowers rotated it in an opposite direction. Dr. Williamson remarked that it would be a great convenience to chemists, if a unit of rota-tory power were adopted. Dr. Gladstone trusted that, whatever the unit adopted, the system would be a decimal one.

On Esparto Fibre, or Spanish Grass .- Dr. Macadam read an interesting paper on this subject, and its employment in the manufacture of paper. During the last three years, esparto fibre had been used in place of rags in the manufac-ture of paper. This Spanish grass was much used, and chiefly with a small admixture of rags, the fibre itself being short, and hence the paper was likely to tear if used alone. He explained the process of gathering the grass, washing and cleansing it, its deposit in the boiler and the infusion of soda into the liquid. There was one objectionable feature in its application. The ley, when suffered to run into the rivers without any attempt at the destruction of its objectionable qualities by chemicals, would poison the fish, and was otherwise injurious. There were some

newspapers in Scotland printed with this fibre, to which was added a small admixture of rags.

Dr. Macadam's other paper was On the Results of Agricultural Experiments made in 1864.

The results of his experiments was the alliance of guanos and phosphates with chemical compounds in the composition of manures for agricultural purposes. cultural purposes.

Mr. T. Fairley next submitted his notes On

the Reactions of Cyanogen and Glycocine, with tables of the same. The section then adjourned

till eleven o'clock on Tuesday.

Section C .- GEOLOGY.

Leaf Forms in the Isle of Wight.—Mr. H. Woodward read a paper by Mr. S. Mitchell "On Hitherto Unrecorded Leaf Forms, &c., from Alum Bay, Isle of Wight." The bed referred to is the band of pipe-clay which occurs in the Lower Bagshot beds in Alum Bay. In one part it is crowded with plant remains. The author, after alluding to the collections of the remains. after alluding to the collections of the remains already made, said he believed we could not yet draw up a complete list of the plants here preserved. In his own collection, containing about 350 leaves, he finds some not yet recorded from this locality. Of those sufficiently perfect to be identified, is a large Ficus, somewhat like Bowerbankii (De la Harpe), but having the angles of venation much larger; a Juglans, with serrate edge (not Sharpeii), a large trilobed Acer, and a Cinnamon like C. Schenchzeri, from Bovey Tracey, and a leguminous leaf, probably a Podogonium. There are two flower remains resembling Porana Eningensis (Heer. Flor. Tert. Helo.), but their identity is not certain. Other leaf fragments cannot be referred to recorded species, but they are not sufficiently perfect to be themselves determined. Further workings under the direction of a committee of the British Association will add to our present list, and it will be some time before it can be considered

Mr. Pengelly said he was told that a new investigation of these beds was about to be made, under the auspices of that association. Professor O. Heer had lately written to him, urging that pressure should be used to get some one to take up this question, and he (Mr. Pengelly) was glad

to find it had been taken up.

A grant of 20% is made to have the bed further

Section D .- ZOOLOGY AND BOTANY.

On the Turdus Migratorius. By Rev. A. W. McKay.

Section E.—Geography and Ethnology.

McIntyre's Journey Across Australia, and Discovery of Traces of Leichhardt. By Dr. Mueller.

On the Native Inhabitants of Formosa. By Mr. R. Swinhoe.

On the Influence of Civilization upon the Development of the Brain. By Mr. Dunn.

On the Negro-European Dialects of the Negroes of Surinam and Curação. By Mr. E. B. Tylor. On the Isthmus of Panama and Interoceanic Ship-canal Routes. By Dr. Cullen.—On the Darien Indians. By the Same.

Researches in Vancouver Island. By Mr. R.

History of Cannibalism. By Mr. J. Crawfurd. City Life in Bukhara. By M. Vámbéry.

Section F.—Economic Science and Statistics.

On the Proposed Extension of Government Administration to Railways. By M. T. de

The Statistics of Crime in Birmingham, as Compared with other Large Towns. By Mr. J.

Thackeray Bunce.
On the Prevention of Infanticide. By Mr. E.

On the Past and Present Productive Power of Cotton Machinery. By Mr. D. Morris.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

WE learn from our Egyptian correspondence, says the Pall Mall Gazette, that the lake discovered by Mr. Baker is, after all, the Luta Nzigé of Captain Speke. The former traveller pronounces it Lutn-zigé, and renders it "Locust Grave," a name used in those parts to denote any large sheet of water. The reason given is that, owing to the conformation of the hills around or on one side of such waters, they are traversed by violent winds, which overpower the flights of locusts, and so the destructive crea-

tures are drowned. In the case of the Lutnzigé, forming the second great lake of the Nile, or, more properly, the westerly lake of that river, very high mountains are supposed to exist round its western and southern shores; so high, that Baker saw them across the breadth of the lake for five days before he reached its eastern margin. He was, however, travelling along a ridge of an undulating platform at a height of about 3,400 feet, and his journeys were not more than from ten to twelve miles a day. The elevated line of road described terminated at the point where he wrote, and when he came upon the lake he was still 1,470 feet above it. Even from that point he could not see the base of the mountains, between which and himself was the breadth of the lake, at that part about sixty miles wide. These mountains Mr. Baker supposes to be the Montes Lunæ of the old geographers. The lake is exceedingly deep, and abounds with hippopotami and other beasts. The Nile issues from its northern end a sluggish stream not more than a mile wide. There is no continuation of the Nile from Speke's Victoria Nyanza, as supposed by him. At the spot where he quitted the river in his journey towards Gondokóro, the river turns due west and runs into the Lutnzigé, which it joins perhaps eighty miles from the northern point, from whence it issues again to flow on by Gondokóro; so that had Speke followed up the stream, instead of leaving it to make, as he supposed, a cut across a large bend of it, he would infallibly have come upon the second lake, and completed his discovery of all the upper waters of the river.

THE story of the cattle plague having invaded the Zoological Gardens turns out to have been a false alarm. Mr. Bartlett, the superintendent of the Gardens, writes to say that no bisons have died, and that for some time past there have been none to die; of the three Italian cattle, the cow is in perfect health, but the two bulls are dead. One died and the other was slaughtered, but the disease which attacked them was not the cattle plague. The only animal now sick in the gardens is a baboon.

SKIDDAW and other mountains in the Lake district are this week covered with snow.

THERE is now a fine solar spot distinctly visible with the naked eye, properly defended with a piece of coloured glass. A delicate train of small spots, visible with a small telescope, follows the large one.

Dr. Crisp has been experimenting upon himself whether the flesh of beasts infected by the cattle plague is dangerous to those who eat it, by dining off beefsteaks cut from animals in which the disease was fully developed, and has even eaten portions of the heart of such animals without experiencing any evil results. "I have, moreover," he says, "fed some of the lower animals upon the diseased meat and intestines, cooked and raw, of oxen affected with cattle plague in its worst stage, without producing any injurious results. In addition to this, I have met with a great many men who have had cuts and scratches on their hands, and who have been daily inoculated with this poison without taking any harm." Dr. Crisp, however, recommends all possible precautions by those engaged in the dissection of diseased animals.

On Tuesday night Mr. Bartholomew Corbett, a well-known clever taxidermist, who was the companion of Wilson and Audubon, the celebrated American ornithologists, in their wanderings over the woods and prairies of the "far west" in search of the native birds of America, was removed from his lodgings at 41, Chapel Street, Edgware Road, to the infirmary of Marylebone Workhouse, in a state of delirium. Mr. Corbett is, it appears, the father of Sergeant Corbett, who shot Booth, the murderer of Pre-sident Lincoln. The old man is of eccentric habits, and would never allow any one to enter his room. In consequence of his not having emerged from his room for several days, Mrs. Allen, his landlady, became alarmed, and sent for Mr. J. L. Beale, the divisional surgeon of police for Paddington, who speedily arrived at the house, but he was unable to get into the room, in consequence of the door being blockaded with huge heaps of old rubbish. By the aid of two con-stables, the door was forced, and when this was accomplished Mr. Beale and the constables had to creep on all fours before they could reach Mr. Corbett, whom they found in a state of delirium and cronched down in the furthest corner of the room. On the following morning, Mr. Douglas, master of the Marylebone Workhouse, accompanied by Mr. Tubbs, the assistant overseer, proceeded to examine the old man's sanctum sanctorum in Chapel Street, which

they found in a state that beggars all description, the whole of the room, from the floor to the ceiling, being literally crammed with cases of stuffed birds, books, and papers. The latter were carefully covered and labelled, and many of them appear to be of value. Every article in the room was covered with the accumulated dust of many years. An avenue 3ft. high by 2ft. wide, and formed of stuffed birds, &c., led to a recess not much larger than the interior of an ordinary-sized portmanteau; and notwithstanding that it is perfectly marvellous how any human being could have existed in such a miserable plight, this eccentric individual must have slept in the recess for many years.

THE Mnaidva bone-cave, which Dr. Adams discovered in 1863, on the south-west coast of Malta, and which he named after the Phoenician mines close by, is to be further explored, the Geological Section having voted 301. for the purpose. In 1864, Dr. Adams worked at it divers times, until the British Association sent a grant enabling him to clear out fifty-four feet of the cave, which was filled with red earth and stalactite. Here he found sixty to eighty teeth, and numerous fragments of bones, of at least two species of elephant, one a perfect pigmy, the other of larger size, but scarcely equal to the smallest Asiatic elephant; besides vast quantities of a gigantic rat, land tortoise, and swan-the last of colossal dimensions. It has been named Cygnus falconerii, after the distinguished palæon-tologist, the late Dr. Falconer. Dr. Adams will continue his researches during the winter months.

WE learn that the exhibition of anthropological objects which the Moscow Société des Amis de la Nature has originated is likely to be a great success. M. Alexis Fedtchenko, the superintendent, has collected specimens of skulls, dresses, implements, &c., illustrative of the various races of Russia, and the most remote provinces of the empire have forwarded objects for exhibition to Moscow.

THE anthropological controversy as to the real relation of man to the gorilla has been raging at the Antipodes. Professor Halford takes the side of Owen, and Huxley is defended by an anonymous "Q." In the columns of the Melbourne Spectator, the Royal Society of Victoria supports the former. As may be supposed, the language employed by the Australian combatants is much more violent than what would be admitted in our scientific societies. The elaborate paper of Dr. Halford, printed in the Australasian of August 4, is, however, a valuable one.

WE reproduce the following letter on the Victorian gigantic fossil animals from the same source, though originally addressed to the Melbourne Argus: "Sir,—I beg to announce a very interesting addition to the National Museum collection, which we owe to the kind offices of Dr. Greeves, who has on former occasions greatly enriched the museum with fossil bones. The present addition is a small series of four specimens found at Murchill Station (belonging to Mr. John Bell), presented by Mr. Charles Dyson, of Market Square, Geelong, through Dr. Greeves, and giving evidence of two gigantic animals of great rarity in Victoria, and of which the national collection had hitherto no examples. largest specimen is a fragment of the posterior part of the left ramus of the lower jaw, with the last molar tooth, of the Nototherium Mitchelli, an extinct gigantic marsupial herbivorous animal, as big as a bullock in the body, intermediate between the kangaroo and native bear in affinities, not hitherto known to occur in Victoria. Immediately with this specimen were two great canine teeth about the size of those of a tiger, and nearly the same shape of root, which is coarsely sulcated longitudinally, the conical crown being worn down obliquely by use like those of a very old Tasmanian devil (Sarcophilus ursinus), specimens of which can be seen in the case on the left hand of the entrance to the gallery in the National Museum building at the rear of the university. These teeth are of the highest possible interest to the Australian geologist and zoologist, as they are the first remains of this part of the extinct gigantic carnivorous marsupial, the Thylacoleo carnifex, which have ever been found, and they help to prove the truth of Professor Owen's suggestion, that at the time when the gigantic Diprotodons nototherium lived in Australia there was a powerful carnivor large enough to tear them in pieces, and prevent their undue increase, most nearly related in savage disposition and general structure to the Tasmanian devil above referred to, but about a third larger than the largest

living lion.—Frederick M'Cov, Director of Museums. — National Museum, Melbourne, August 23."

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SPECTROSCOPE.

Broomfield, Sheffield, October 23, 1865.
WILL you kindly allow me, through your journal, to correct a very great error which occurs in a quotation from one of my letters in Mr. Browning's paper on the application of the spectroscope to the microscope, in the last number of the Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science, p. 112—an error which he informs me was entirely the fault of the printer. I am therein made to say "the best tests arefirst, that the absorption-bands in blood can be seen when they are very faint; second, to well divide the bands in permanganate of potash; and third, to see distinctly the very fine lime given in the red by a solution of chloride of cobalt. In a concentrated solution of chloride of calcium there is a line so fine, that it looks like a Fraunhofer's line.

It would be a wonderful instrument that could show the latter tests, for the simple reason that they give no such bands at all. The clause should be, "to see distinctly the very fine line given in the red by a solution of chloride of cobalt in a concentrated solution of chloride of calcium. This line is so fine, that it looks like

a Fraunhofer's line." I may here state that the solution should be of a very pale blue colour, and ought to be mounted in a wedge-shaped cell, so that the proper intensity of absorption can be more readily obtained; and since I wrote the letter referred to, I have found that there is another still finer line in the orange, to see which distinctly is the severest test for this kind of instrument that I have so far been able to discover.—Yours very truly, H. C. Sorby.

CHEMISTRY AT OXFORD.

BEG permission to direct attention to some changes of serious import about to be carried out at Oxford.

It is just three months since the announcement by Dr. Daubeny of the contemplated inauguration of the Waynflete Professorship of Chemistry by the abolition of the Aldrichian Professorship, and the transference of Sir B. Brodie to the new chair. With the exception of a few remarks on the subject in the Chemical News, no notice has been taken of this project in the scientific journals. To those who are anxious that the natural sciences should be adequately represented and fully taught at our older Universities, I would

commend the following observations.

The object of the University Commissioners in arranging for the endowment of the Waynflete Professorship of Chemistry was undoubtedly to give opportunities for the more extended study of this important science at the University; but this object will be defeated if the Aldrichian foundation be abolished. This course, it seems to me, is not only impolitic but illegal. The funds of the Aldrichian trust must be diverted, and the obligations undertaken by the University when the stamp duties were remitted must be disregarded, before the old Professorship of Chemistry can be abrogated. If the creation the new Waynflete Professorship of Chemistry is held to render necessary the abolition of the Aldrichian Professorship, why has not the creation of the Waynflete Professorship of Moral Philosophy and of Chichele's Professorship of Modern History, rendered equally necessary the abolition of Whyte's Professorship of Moral Philosophy and the Regius Professorship of Modern History? The cases are quite parallel. And if this step is to be accompanied, to save the vested rights of the present holder, by the transference of Sir B. Brodie to the new chair, why did not Mr. Wilson and Mr. Goldwin Smith pass over in a similar manner to occupy the posts now held by Mr. Mansel and Mr. Montagu Burrows?

There are two cogent reasons why those who are compassing the abolition of the Aldrichian Professorship should pause in their work of destruction; and we appeal to them with some hopes of attention, because among them may be found men who have done good work in the cause of natural science at Oxford. These two reasons may be briefly given. In the first place, the domain of chemistry is now so vast, and its boundaries day by day are so rapidly enlarging, that one mind, however vigorous and comprehensive, cannot adequately survey the whole;

and, in the second place, more numerous per-manent rewards at the University are required, in order to retain some of her foremost scientific men within her more immediate borders. want not one chemist with the energy and talents of Sir B. Brodie, but several.

Side by side the several professors would work; there would be at once a division of labour and a healthy stimulus to exertion.-I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A CHEMIST IN CONVOCATION.

October 21, 1865.

SCIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE.

THE Syndicate appointed by the University of Cambridge to consider the best mode for the teaching of anatomy and zoology have recommended that the Professor of Anatomy take the department of Human Anatomy and Physiology; that a Demonstrator in Anatomy be appointed to assist the professor and attend to the museum; and that a Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy be appointed. The stipends proposed for each of the professors are 300% per annum; for the demonstrator, 100%. A debate was held on the above reports in the Arts School, on Saturday last, when the feeling expressed was, on the whole, favourable to the adoption of the report. CAMBRIDGE M.A.

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS. THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. - October 9. - "On the Nature and Treatment of Cholera," by M. R. de Wouves. The author considers that as cholera is due to some poison in the intestines, the best way to treat it is to remove the peccant substance. He recommends-1. That purgatives should be at once administered when cholera declares itself. 2. That the patient be sustained with broth and wine. 3. That mustard poultices be applied to the limbs. He concludes: 1. That cholera is not contagious. 2. That the diarrhoea is at the most only infectious; and 3. That diarrhea may be combatted at the outset by purgative treatment.—"On the Allotropic States of Iron, and their Office in Metallurgy," by M. de Cizancourt, is a paper which reminds us a good deal of Dr. Matheren is a like the search of the sear thessen's able researches on alloys. — M. Dupré presented "A Fifth Memoir on the Mechanical Theory of Heat."—M. Buttinck suggests the employment of magnesium as an electrometer metal to replace zinc in galvanic piles. M. Bert described some of the phenomena seen when animal tissues are engrafted, and M. Tripier advocated the employment of electricity as a means of producing anæsthesia.-A letter entitled "Observations upon the Cholera at Marseilles, during September and October, 1865," was received from M. G. Grimaud. In this the writer shows very clearly that the cholera in Marseilles arose from the disembarkation of passengers from Alexandria. He gives exact dates and statistics, and supplies us with full information concerning the vessels and their passengers, through which the epidemic was first imported.—The other communications were: "On the Classifying Action of Alum on Waters," by M. Jennet; "On the Primitive Products of Human Industry in Italy," by M. Mellini; "Remarks on the Anatomy of Tridacna Elongata," by M. Léon Vaillant.

October 16.—M. Boussingault read a paper "On the Functions of Leaves." Leaves exposed to the action of hydrogen nitrogen lost, as in carbonic acid, their decomposing power. This the author attributes to the circumstance that they were deprived for a long time of the supply of oxygen, which is necessary for the removal of carbonic acid, by slow combustion.— M. Pelouzi's paper, "On the Coloration of Glass by Silenium," is of some interest.—M. Lestiboudois' note, "On the Structure of Hoya Carnosa," deserves the notice of botanists. The writer remarks: "It is to confound two entirely distinct things to designate the various juices which one finds in the bark of vegetable latex, and to reunite under the name of laticiferous the vessels proper and the various reservoirs which contain limpid juices, such as tubes, fibres, utricles,"&c.—M. R. Clausius has a memoir "On a General Law Relative to the Operating Force of Heat."—The other communications were on "The Electricity of the Torpedo," by Signor Matteuci; "Cholera," by M. Guyon;" the continuation of M. Grimand's essay on the same epidemic; "The Variability of Métis," by M.
A. Sanson; "Some New Combinations of
Hydrocyanic Acid," by M. H. Gal; "Mono
and Dishydrate of Allylene and Acetylene;"

"The Nerve-ends of the Motor Nerve Fibres," by Herr Kühne.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. - August 5. - A paper was read by M. Quetelet, Director of the Royal Observatory, upon the storms which occurred in July. This, though little more than a careful record, may be interesting to meteorologists. A communication upon the "Agrio-nine," by M. de Selys-Longchamps, contains a detailed account of the several species of agria, and extends over forty-two pages of the Bulletin. -M. A. Spring presented a memoir "On the various Modes of the Formation of Ossiferous Deposits in Caverns." In this he points out that certain deposits near Namur have evidently owed their origin to the fact that birds of prey conveyed the bones from various localities to their feeding grounds. This is borne out by the circumstance that none of the human bones are those of adults, and that the other bones are those either of small vertebrates or of young mammals.—"The History of Cinnamic Acid," by Dr. Th. Swarts, explains the various reactions of this substance. Cinnamic acid is decomposed by water, and by an elevated temperature, as baryta into carbonic acid and some hydercarburet. It might from this be presumed that, inversely, one might prepare the acid synthetically by uniting carbonic acid to this hydercarburet. The plan was suggested by Kekulé in his splendid essay on the aromatic acids. M. Swarts caused carbonic acid to act upon monobromated styrol in the presence of sodium and in an etherial The carbonic anhydride is passed through till all the ether is volatilized; by this means a grumous mass is obtained. It is necessary to avoid converting the cinnamic acid into hydrocynnamic by the hydrogen which results from the contact of the sodium with water. The saline mass thus obtained is dissolved in water, purified with animal charcoal, the filtrate is supersaturated with hydrochloric acid, and the synthetically-formed acid is precipitated as a crystalline substance.— M. Folie, of the School of Mines of Liege, gives an essay "On a New Theory of the Movement of a Free Body." This is a long and important memoir, and is to be continued.—M. Le Hon's article "On the Eruption of Vesuvius in 1631" is an historic account of that dreadful catastrophe. The number of victims to this eruption can never be ascertained with accuracy. The computations of historians vary from 400 to 10,000 persons. The former figures are absurd, the latter evidently exaggerated. It may be said that the matter discharged from the mountain destroyed at least 4,000 persons. More than 10,000 domestic and wild animals were either burnt or crushed to death. The losses have been estimated at twenty millions of ducats, or eighty-five millions of francs.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—October 19.—John Williams, Esq., librarian, in the chair. Mr. Whittonen exhibited an unpublished penny

of Coenwulf, King of Mercia, found in Kent.

Mr. Lambert exhibited a gold medal commemorating the marriage of William of Nassau

and Mary, daughter of Charles I., May, 1641. communicated find of Anglo-Saxon coins at Chester in 1857. The list represents about seventy or eighty specimens, sixty having been stolen a few days after

they were found.

Mr. Evans read a paper by himself on "The Short-cross Question," being a detailed account of the large hoard of short-cross pennies discovered at Eccles in August, 1864. He has divided the coins years followed. divided the coins very carefully into five classes, and the result of his examination of this find, which consisted of about 6,000 coins, is as follows: 1. The short-cross pennies are sus-ceptible of at least five subdivisions, most of which, however, shade off into each other, so that their order was continuous. 2. The coinage of short-cross pennies commenced under Henry II., in 1180, whose coins are approximately represented by them, placed under Class I. 3. The coinage continued under Richard I., whose coins are mainly represented by Class II., though probably some of these belong also to the first years of John. 4. Under John a reformation of the coinage takes place, and his improved coinage is that of Class III. and IV., though probably some of the coins of Class IV. may belong to the first few years of Henry III.; and 5. The coins Class V. may all be assigned to Henry III., under whom, in 1247 or 1248, the

short-cross coinage terminated, and the longcross pennies were introduced.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

THURSDAY.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, Burlington House.—At 8 r.m. 1. "On a New Genus of Begoniaceee:" Professor Oliver. 2. "On the Law of Leaflet-genesis:" Mr. H. Coultas.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.—At 8. "On Some New Cornish Minerals:" Professor Church.

ART.

N an obscure corner under the staircase leading to the Vernon Gallery at South Kensington may be seen half-a-dozen or more drawings of a semicircular form. These are the drawings which have been sent in to compete for the prize offered by the Department of/Science and Art for the best design for the decoration of the Lunettes of the South Court. The subject given was any process of art manufacture. Beginning at the top, the first design represents the decoration of a public building: elegantly dressed artists are painting the walls, while others of equally fashionable exterior are grinding and preparing the colours; others again, reclining in graceful attitudes, are absorbed in contemplation. On the top of a staircase, in the centre of the composition, are statues of the Queen and Prince Albert : two artists are fondly gazing upwards at these, while an inimitable "gent," hat in hand, is descending, and appears wrapt in admiration at the beauty of the decorations. We congratulate the artist on the air of elegance and refinement he has thrown over the scene by a proper at-tention to fashionable attire. We shall cease to have any faith in the enterprise of the spirited and registered proprietor of the far-famed Sydenham trousers, if he does not outbid the Government, and become the fortunate owner of this work of art; as a heading to an advertisement, it would open an entirely new field. Artists are too apt to show a shaggy indifference to the advantages of an elegant exterior; they have only to see this work and they would go in crowds to the "Mart of Fashion."

No. 2 is a faint photograph of a faint and feeble drawing; the subject, "Pottery." A tall and elegant female is depicting a swallow on a vase, a style of decoration at present much in vase, a style of decoration at present much in vogue in the Burlington Arcade; on the left a thrower is engaged in his art; while on the right a workman is placing a vase in the furnace. The principal figure in this composition is fourteen feet high; it has evidently occurred to the talented artist that this would be unnecessarily large; she has accordingly modified her design, and in No. 8 the subject we have described occupies only the upper part. The lower is taken up by a highly poetical and imaginative composition, which we are not at all certain that we rightly comprehend, or rather, more strictly speaking, we are quite certain that we do not. In the centre a blind bard (query Homer) is receiving offerings of various vases. On the right, Death is symbolized by the pitcher at last broken at the well. Draped figures, not altogether unlike those of Blake, are lamenting over a funeral urn; a more ethereal urn contains the embodied spirit, and is borne aloft by Psyche. On the left a startled Nymph (query Pandora) has taken off the lid of a vase, out of which escape Death and Horrors; a maiden is offering a cup of water to a wounded knight, another is watering flowers, while others are feeding children from a

In No. 3, Britannia, with the usual trimmings, occupies the centre of the composition : on the right are the arts and sciences; a naked and rather raw-boned man personifies sculpture; a female figure, if not in her right mind, at least decently clothed, represents painting; while Christianity, pottery, and science are each appropriately symbolized. To the left, textile fabrics are represented by a woman offering a shawl, and agriculture by Ceres with a hot-water jug. Above, the "Genius of Art" is seen pointing out to savage nations the inscription "A just appreciation of the beautiful raises a nation to eminence." The savage nations look as if they would much prefer roast missionary. This design is taken from the Mulready postage envelope, and is, if possible,

The subject of No. 4 is Pottery, and the design is evidently by an artist well versed in all its processes: to describe it would involve a treatise on the whole art. The drawing is mannered and exaggerated, and there is an obvious incongruity between the realistic treatment of the workmen and the ornamental treatment of the architectural setting; but the composition, though crowded, confused, and spotty, shows a truer appreciation of at least the requirements of decorative art than most of the works here.

Of No. 5 Pottery is again the subject. The design represents the section of a manufactory: above the thrower with his assistants is turning off vases; below women are engaged in painting cups, plates, &c.; to the left is the preparation of the clay; to the right the furnace. The figures and the details of the different processes are all rendered with care, and minuteness, and show signs of being the work of an artist of some facility and experience, but for mural decoration this design is perhaps the worst of the whole series—it is simply a school diagram illustrating the manufacture.

No. 6 is by Mr. Watts. A knight on a black rearing charger is stooping to receive his casque from the hands of the armourer. Slightly in the background is another knight on a grey charger, led by a page. This noble group occupies the principal place in the composition. A little to the right is seen the painter; the goldsmith is offering his work to a group of Venetian-looking women; to the extreme right is the potter. On the left the sea and ships suggest commerce; a Titanic figure chipping the rock suggests either sculpture or mining; while another reclining on an anvil represents the arts of Vulcan. This noble composition, although so slight as to be in parts unintelligible, is quite worthy of Mr. Watts' reputation, and if carried out promises to be a work of which the nation may be proud.

No. 7 is a picture of Raffaelle commencing the Madonna della Seggiola; in the centre is the celebrated group which Raffaelle is represented as painting—not, as tradition has it, on the top of a barrel, but on a board, which is held in a theatrical manner by a figure leaning over him; the "heavy father" behind is expressing his admiration and astonishment. The best part of the design is a figure grinding colours, two little children looking on. This composition does not sufficiently fill the space, and, if carried out, the figures would be of gigentic proportions

figures would be of gigantic proportions.

If we except Mr. Watts' design, these drawings are worthy of notice not from their merit, but because they so forcibly illustrate the very general ignorance of that severe and monumental style which is essential in mural paintings, and the total absence of that academic training without which it is impossible to carry out such works, even if our artists had the taste and power to conceive them.

MUSIC.

"L'AFRICAINE" IN ENGLISH.

TITH "L'Africaine"—alas for "native talent!"—the English Opera Company has at length begun its second season. To attempt the most elaborate work of the most ambitious of composers was no slight venture, and we are composers was no slight venture, and we are bound to say the Company has come well through it. They have given us a more complete, on the whole a more efficient, and certainly a more pleasant rendering of this opera, than has yet been produced in London or Paris. Some people may be surprised that in a work demanding such vast resources, the company should have succeeded better than in smaller things; but the fact is only an instance of the rule that the more complicated a work is, the more depends upon organization, and the less, in proportion, upon the powers of individual singers. Now, in the "star" element the English enterprise is avowedly weak. Two vocalists of the first rank are the most that it can count. But the organization of the company* can count. But the organization of the company* —the company as seen before and below the foot-lights—is admirable. Better discipline than that exercised by Mr. Mellon and his lieutenants we never saw. To compare his vigorous beat with the nerveless see-saw of M. Hainl, would be absurd; it has all the decision, though not quite the lordly sweep, of Mr. Costa's conducting. The result is a credit to our English music, the execu-tive department, at least, being "native;" for the amount of preparation, even reckoning that which preceded the Italian performances, must have been very far short of the infinite reheaving have been very far short of the infinite rehearsing which was found necessary at the "Grand Opera. Mr. Mellon and the "Company" (limited) have given the English public, for the first time, a reasonably complete performance of the piece. What, and how much, M. Fétis cut out of the original score has not been stated, but it may be presumed that his device for shortening the work was not to mutilate particular movements. This, unluckily, is what M. Costa did. Finding that the French acting version (which is nearly

*It is not our fault that the designation of this enterprise, "The English Opera Company," gives rise to an awkward ambiguity of phrase whenever one has to describe its proceedings. The confusion is irritating, but inevitable.

the same as the published one) could not easily be compressed into the limits of time prescribed by the laws of the Italian season, he proceeded to snip and carve Meyer-beer's posthumous opera with the cool licence to be expected from the improver of Handel's oratorios; not, for the most part, striking out entire scenes or movements, which would have been excusable enough (as Meyerbeer was no exception to the aliquando dormitat rule), but cutting out ten bars here, and thirty there, sometimes the reprise of an air, sometimes an episode in an ensemble, for the sake of small savings of two or two-and-a-half minutes. On the damage done to the music by this process it is needless to insist; the only wonder is that a musician with the least respect for the masters of his art should consent to be the perpetrator of such a barbarism. "L'Africaine" is too long, every one admits, but the saving of twenty minutes is a sorry compensation for mutilation so merciless. The English performance lasts about this time longer than the Italian; but the gain is immense, in the making of both music and action more intelligible and so more enjoyable. The opening, for instance, of the third act, the reveil on ship-board, how entirely one missed, under Mr. Costa, the sense of gradual expansion, the effect of a slowly-reached climax-to say nothing of the loss of lovely music-by the omission of the picturesque instrumental prelude and the three-part chorus of women's voices. Now the "Debout! matelots," the rough halloo of the sailors, comes in with twice the effect after the soft cadence of that charming trio, and when the two choirs join, after being heard independently in the hymn to Saint Dominic, the breadth of choral tone comes upon the ear with a power which was before almost wholly lost. Then, as an example of how these mutilations confuse the action of the piece, take the great solo of Vasco, "Paradise sprung from the wave!" in the fourth act. By some strange blundering, Mr. Costa's version turned this soliloquy into an address to the Indians. Vasco, instead of being alone, wrapped, as the dramatist and composer intended, in an ecstacy of delight at the glories of the tropical isle, was made to sing his raptures in the midst of a crowd of savages, taking no notice, appa-rently, of their hatchets and their war paint. The English version, by following the text, avoids this absurdity, and brings out the neat bit of dramatic contrast intended by the composer. The hero is lost in a dream about the glories which await him (Monde nouveau, tu m'appartiens), and is presently wakened out of it by a rush of savages howling for his blood.

The excellence of the ensemble, as we have said, is the best feature of this performance; but the singing of some of the artists engaged is such as it would be unfair to pass without notice. Miss Pyne is the Selika, and the best Selika, beyond all comparison, who has yet appeared in London or Paris. The music is easily within her means, though it may be feared that the excessive quantity of it will fatigue her voice. Madame Sherrington sings no less admirably as Inez, and the great scene between the two ladies in the last act produces a piece of soprano duetsinging the like of which for united beauty of tone can rarely have been equalled. In the concerted pieces, especially in the finale to the second act—one is tempted to call it the "Minstrel Boy" finale—the brilliance, purity, and decision of Madame Sherrington's singing are beyond all praise. Mr. Charles Adams is a competent representative of Vasco, but we cannot say his singing is remarkable for refinement. The part has too much of the "robusto" element to be well suited to him; and in striving to be forcible, he is apt to be coarse. Still, to any one who recollects the last Vasco heard here, his singing may well seem celestial. Mr. Lawrence did very well as Nelusko; his correct de-livery of the crucial unaccompanied passage, "Turn to the North," was a sufficient test of the accuracy of his singing; but he, too, has to learn to unite refinement to vigour. Mr. Patey's only deficiency in the small, but important part of the High Priest, is a lack of the volume of voice necessary to make his declamation tell in such a vast space. His singing is otherwise irreproachable.

With a performance so good as this, the last great work of Meyerbeer is certain to make its way with the English public. There may be dull parts in it: if the composer had lived to hear it, it can scarcely be doubted that he would have cut down or altered the second and third acts; but there is also in it some of the noblest music ever imagined by man. The fourth and fifth acts especially win upon one every time

they are heard. It would be a waste of epithets to attempt to describe in words their subtle beauties, or the total of the effect produced by the continued stream of gorgeous music. Stream, perhaps, is hardly the word for it; but even if you look at it (or listen to it) as mosaic, its many-hued loveliness is scarcely the less enchanting.

R. B. L.

MUSICAL NOTES.

On Sunday last a statue was inaugurated at Nogent-sur-Marne to Walteau. Speeches were made by MM. Arsenè Houssaye and P. Fournier. The last named is President of the Société Libre des Beaux-Arts. A mass, composed for the occasion by M. Castegnier, formed part of the proceedings.

THE programme of the Teatro di San Carlo, in Naples, is now published. Eighty-eight performances are promised. "Marta" is the opening piece.

Bendazzi, the Italian prima donna, and Sirchia, the well-known primo tenore, have gone to sing in the Italian Opera House at Alexandria, in Egypt.

A NEW theatre is in course of erection at Busseto. It will be opened on the first of the coming year, and be entitled Teatro Verdi. The great maestro, himself a native of Busseto, will, it is said, conduct the opening performances.

MARIA FUMEO, a female pianist, who has achieved distinguished success in Milan, and is spoken of as equal to Liszt, is about to visit Paris.

A NEW cantata, by Signor Persichini, produced in Rome on the occasion of the *fête* of the pupils of the Benedictine Fathers, has won for its author high commendations from the Italian press.

THE new Salle de Spectacle at Antwerp was opened with brilliant success on the 16th inst. The principal item in the opening performance consisted of the Beethoven Symphony in C Minor

THE Earl of Dudley's persistent attack upon the Worcester Musical Festival has been vigorously repulsed by the Dean and Chapter. If we are rightly informed, the Earl tried to tempt the Chapter into compliance with his views by offering, contingently thereon, to increase considerably his donation to the Restoration Fund; an artifice rather more ingenious than gentlemanly.

MR. HENRY LESLIE'S "Ida" has been put into rehearsal at the English Opera at Covent

Garden.

An English translation of Mozart's letters is announced for Nov. 4. It is by Lady Wallace, whose translations of Mendelssohn's letters have been so widely read.

Signor Arditi announces a series of popular voice and instrumental concerts, to be given presently at Her Majesty's Theatre.

MADAME CARADORI-ALLAN, a vocalist whose oratorio singing so delighted the fathers and mothers of the present generation, died a fortnight ago.

The operas given this week at Her Majesty's have been "Fidelio," "Don Giovanni," and "Faust." To-night for the first time for many years in London is to be played "Der Freyschutz." The last time the opera was produced in London was, if we remember right, in one of Mr. E. T. Smith's earliest ventures at Drury Lane, some ten years ago, with a German company.

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

OPERAS.—Covent Garden (English), "L'Africaine," &c. Her Majesty's (Italian), "Faust," "Fidelio," &c.

THE DRAMA.

RIP VAN WINKLE.

THE production of this play has already been briefly noticed in The READER. Sufficient space can now be spared to afford it that analysis which its merits and success demand.

Mr. Boucicault can claim as much originality in the authorship of the drama as Washington Irving in that of the tale, which was an imitation from the German. Mr. Boucicault has not merely expanded the story, stuffed in minor characters, supplied it with situations and other playwrights' "properties;" he has introduced an element of pathos which constitutes the charm of the piece. In point of construction, it is feeble enough; but it is well written, and, above all, it has gained its end—that of giving a great actor a suitable character to wear.

The first scene is the village of Falling A public-house with the face of George III. upon its signboard, and its red-faced landlord singing "Mynheer Van Trunck." Opposite is the miserable cottage of Rip Van Winkle, whose wife is arm deep in a washingtub before the door. Her little daughter, Meenie, is playing by her. Derrick, the villain of the piece, comes on. He has a fancy for Gretchen Van Winkle, who refused to marry him when she was a girl, and has consoled himself with her husband's property, which he has extracted from him field by field, house by house, till nothing remains but the hovel in which they live; and that he cannot sell because it is his wife's own property. Rip Van Winkle drinks; and has liquidated his lands into schnapps. Setting aside that slight defect, he is the best of men; averse to the monotony of daily toil, but warmhearted, generous, and gifted with an equa-nimity which nothing has yet disturbed. His wife, Gretchen, is industrious and thrifty, but a shrew and a scold, using her tongue and broomstick with equal facility and violence upon her drunken husband. But she loves him in her heart, and when Derrick, en-couraged by her complaints, proposes that she shall send the worthless wretch adrift, she proves it by her answer. She goes into the cottage, and Rip Van Winkle himself appears, surrounded by children, who caress him, beat him, and climb over him. It is the true Dutch type; a broad firm form, with a fresh-coloured face, light blue eyes, and a quantity of uncombed, chesnut-coloured hair. He is rather ragged, and appears to have just come down from the mountains, with a fowling-piece on his shoulder, and an empty game-bag on his back. He speaks with a Dutch accent, sometimes introducing Dutch words, and displays the dry, quiet, Dutch humour, which is not unlike that of the Scotch, making jokes about the temper and longevity of his wife, whom he presently rushes off to avoid. Derrick's nephew comes on, and informs his uncle that he has committed one of those blunders which, alas, the Derricks of real life never commit—that the village of Falling Water still belongs to Rip Van Winkle, that he has been repairing another man's houses, and building houses on another man's grounds. To meet this difficulty, Derrick prepares a paper for Van Winkle to sign, and knowing that he cannot read anticipates little difficulty. He lends him a bag of money without waiting to be asked. This rouses the suspicions of Rip, who, though a drunkard, is not a fool in other respects, and who knows very well that Derrick does not lend money without a purpose. Accordingly, having got possession of the acknowledgment which *Derrick* asks him to sign, he puts it in his pocket, and says that he will think over it. He shakes the bag; "It does not chink like good money;" and it seems to him that there is a great deal of pen and ink in this paper for so little a matter as a bag of money. Two children come to him, his little Meenie and the son of the land-lord. They inform him that they are engaged to be married; Hendrik is going to sea to make a fortune for Meenie, and will never drink. The obtuse conscience of the drunkard is touched by the child's words; he confesses with a faltering voice that he has beggared his little girl, and swears that he will never drink again. He makes Hendrik, who "goes to school," read his legal document, and hears that in consideration of the sum of 161. he is to exchange the village of Falling Water. He sees that he must keep sober; but his friends, whom he has previously invited to a carousal over the bag of money, come round him with cups full of liquor; he declares irresolutely that he has "swored off," and finally gives in for just this once, as drunkards always do. He sings a song, and takes a pretty girl for his partner in a round dance, when his wife appears on the scene with a broomstick in her hand.

The next scene is laid in the cottage of Rip Van Winkle His wife and child are waiting for him, but he has been out on the drink since the affair of the dance, and they do not know when he will return. A storm arises; there is thunder and lightning, and it rains heavily. On such nights, say the villagers, the ghosts of a pirate crew light their pipes, and play at skittles in the mountains. Gretchen storms and weeps, declares that her husband shall have no supper when he comes home, and puts down some clothes to air at the fire, drives his dog out of doors, and puts on her shawl to go and look for him, knowing that she will feel happier if she is sharing the bad weather with him. At that moment the head of the lost one appears at the window; she drags him in by his hair; she upbraids him fiercely, he banters her good

naturedly; she bursts into tears, he solemnly declares that he will drink no more; she believes him, is delighted, runs for Meenie, and returning with her discovers Rip drinking from a flask, and boasting to himself of having so easily taken in his wife. Almost frantic with rage, she tells him that this house is hers, and that he shall live in it no more, flings open the door, and drives him out into the raging storm. "What Gretchen," he says sadly, "would you drive me out as if I was a dog!" She does not answer. On the threshold he embraces his child, and blesses her in a breaking voice. Then he goes, his wife shrieking after him in vain.

In the second act the supernatural business is worked in. It is fortunately very short, as it is ghastly and unreal, without being impressive, and ridiculous without being comic. A group of pirate ghosts are represented playing at skittles; as the ball is rolled thunder is heard—a striking phenomenon, the more so, as a bright blue sky is painted overhead. Rip Van Winkle is brought among them by one of their number; they invite him to drink, and he falls into a sleep which is supposed to last for twenty years.

In the third act a thin, squeaky voice is heard, and Rip Van Winkle rises with difficulty from the ground. He is a wretched, attenuated creature, with a long white beard and bright blue weird-like eyes. He looks for his gun, and finds only a rusty barrel. He looks down upon the village of Falling Water, and is astonished to see that it is twice as large as it was the night before. In the next scene he appears in the village, followed by a hooting crowd. He sees strange faces everywhere. Another face has been painted on the signboard, and underneath it is the name "Washington." His own cottage has disappeared. He hears that his old boon companions are dead; that he himself perished somewhere in the mountains twenty years ago, and that Derrick has married Gretchen. Presently he witnesses a scene between these two, which astonishes him more than anything he has yet heard. He sees a pale-faced, trembling dame with drooping eyes and a subdued voice answering timidly to the threats and oaths of her ferocious husband. She has been completely tamed down. Derrick has determined that Meenie, who is the real heiress to the village of Falling Water, shall be married to his nephew, whom she detests. She is betrothed to Hendrik Vedder, who is supposed to have been drowned at sea, but who has just returned to save Rip Van Winkle from being driven again into the mountains. The old man is left alone with Gretchen. Remembering how she had always driven beggars away, he is about to skulk off: but ill-treatment has softened her heart; she calls to him, gives him alms, and making him lean on her, takes him into her house. Then follows a very pretty scene between father and daughter. He recalls to her mind the night on which Gretchen had driven him out into the storm, and how he had embraced her before the open door. One by one his features come back to her. The rest will, of course, be easily imagined. Derrick threatens to pack them all out of doors unless Meenie will marry his nephew. Rip Van Winkle declares who he is, and produces the acknowledgment, which is very dirty, but which, like his clothes, has resisted the laws of decomposition. His wife entreats him not to leave her again; tells him that he may stop out all night, that he may drink as much as he likes. and offers him the final cup of schnapps with her own hands.

Mrs. Billington plays admirably, as do the two children in the first act. But Mr. Jefferson's performance is one of the most remarkable which we have ever seen. It is a perfect delineation of Dutch character in accent, manner, and appearance. Of a drunkard with his affected coyness when asked to drink, with his habit of eying the cup, with his resolutions as rapidly broken as made. Of an easy-going, good-humoured generous soul, with a shrewd wit which he wears sheathed, but can use when he likes. Above all, of a man whose voice falters when he confesses that he has ruined his child; whose voice breaks when he bids her farewell; and who in the last scene fears to tell her that he is her father, lest she should say that it was not true.

Mr. Jefferson is an actor-humourist. He has mastered all the inflections of a voice which is naturally sweet. He has a smile like sunshine. He has the power of drawing tears with a word, and sometimes with a look. It remains to be proved whether he can portray the storm and violent emotions, but in such characters as this of Rip Van Winkle he is likely to remain unrivalled.

W. W. R.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

A NEW two-act comedy, by MM. Lambert, Thiboust, and de Courcy, has been acted with indifferent success at the Gymnase. It is entitled "La Marieuse," and the measure of favour it encountered was mainly due to the acting of Lesneur, Berton, and Madame Delaporte. A young actress, named Mdlle. Bloch, who made her débât in the piece, is well spoken of.

PHILIBERT ROUVIERE, the well-known Parisian actor, died in Paris on Thursday week. He was considered by many the best *Hamlet* on the French stage.

CHARLES DUPEUTY, a dramatic author of some note, died on Sunday last in Paris.

A new play by the celebrated Ferrari, produced at Florence, and entitled "Il Codicillo dello zio Venanzio," has not been very successful.

A DRAMA, founded on the opera "L'Africaine," will shortly be produced at the Teatro del Fondo, in Naples.

THE "Biche au Bois" has now been played for two hundred nights at the Théâtre du Porte St. Martin. The gross receipts are stated to amount to the fabulous sum of 1,000,000 francs, or 40,000l. This allows 200l. for each night's receipts. The piece is still popular as ever.

DRAMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—Your excellent critic, in his notice of "The School for Scandal," performed here a fortnight ago, and which appeared in your paper of the 14th inst., appears to have fallen into a common error of supposing Lady Teazle to be a "stately lady of quality." I have heard the late Mr. Elliston notice the same erroneous idea. As Sir Peter says, "I chose with caution a girl bred wholly in the country, who never knew luxury beyond one silk gown, nor dissipation beyond the annual gala of a race ball."

Again, Sir Peter addressing Lady Teazle, the dialogue runs thus: "Recollect, Lady Teazle, when I saw you first sitting at your tambour, in a pretty figured linen gown, with a bunch of keys at your side; your hair combed smooth over a role, and your apartment hung round with fruits in worsted of your own working." To which Lady Teazle replies that her daily occupation then was to "inspect the dairy, superintend the poultry, make extracts from the family receiptbook, and comb my Aunt Deborah's lap-dog;" while the subsequent dialogue continues much in the same strain.

Sir Peter having been married but six months, Lady Teazle has not had the time to become the stately woman of quality; she but affects to be one, still retaining some of her rusticity. For my own part, I consider Miss Nelly Moore's

reading of the character to be the right one, possessing a sufficient simplicity to denote origin; and, in my opinion, it was altogether a charming performance.—Truly yours,

JNO. B. BUCKSTONE.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 1865.

To the Editor of THE READER.

Sir,—You have published (inadvertently I hope) two columns of intemperate abuse aimed at my drama, and mendacious personalities levelled at myself.

The author of all this spite is not ashamed to sympathise with the heartless robbers from whom justice and law have rescued my creation and my property. (Query—Was he not set on by those very robbers?) He even eulogizes a ruffian who, on the 4th October, raised a disturbance in the Princess's Theatre, and endeavoured to put down my play by clamour, but was called to order by the respectable portion of the audience.

Have you any sense of justice and fair play where the party assailed is only an author of repute, and the assailant has the advantage of being an obscure scribbler? If so, you will give me a hearing in my defence. I reply in one sentence to two columns of venom and drivel. I just beg to inform honest men and women that your anonymous contributor, who sides with piratical thieves against the honest inventor, and disparages Charles Reade, and applauds one Tomlins—is Tomlins.—I am, your obedient servant,

obedient servant, Charles Rea 92 St. George's Road, South Belgravia, October 21, 1865.

To secure punctual delivery in Scotland, Ireland, and the Provinces, THE READER is published every Friday Afternoon at Two o'clock.

THE PERIODICALS FOR NOVEMBER.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW,

No. CCXXXVI.,

Is Published THIS DAY.

I. ENGLISH CATHEDRALS.

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IV. POETRY OF PRAED AND LORD HOUGHTON.

V. THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND. VI. FIELD SPORTS OF THE ANCIENTS.

VII. THE GALLICAN CHURCH.

VIII. ENCROACHMENTS OF RUSSIA IN ASIA.

JOHN MURRAY, Albemarle Street.

Blackwood's Magazine,

For NOVEMBER, 1865. No. DCl. Price 2s. 6d.

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In Retirement.

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" LIV.-Molly Gibson's Worth is Discovered.

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Book the Fourth (continued)-Chapter VIII.—She Comes Between Them.

IX .- She Knows the Truth.

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THE HOLY FAIR OF HURDWAR.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON KEYS.

THE FORDS OF JORDAN, 1859.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

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The Victoria Magazine.

NOVEMBER 1.

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The Directors are aware that in thus admitting the public to subscribe for shares, at a price so much below their real value, they are departing from the practice generally adopted in an issue of new shares, of offering the whole of them to the shareholders; but the Directors are so impressed with the importance of increasing the area of influence of this Company—influence second only in importance to capital to a Company—influence second only in importance to capital to a Company—influence of admitting the public to a participation in such issue, that they feel confident of obtaining the approval of the shareholders in the course they have adopted.

The following calculation will guide investors in estimating

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Form of Application for shares, to be retained by the Bankers.

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Usual signature......Name in full

THE CREDIT FONCIER and MOBILIER of ENGLAND (Limited).—Notice is hereby given, that the lists of application for the new shares in this Company will be closed on Thursday, the 2nd November, at 4 o'clock, for country applications, before the expiration of which time all applications must be made.

By order,

ALFRED LOWE, Sec.

Nos. 17 and 18, Cornhill, London, Oct. 24, 1866.

THE CREDIT FONCIER and MOBILIER of ENGLAND (Limited).—At a MEETING of the Share-holders of this Company, held this day \Tuesday), the 24th October, 1866, at 11 o'clock A.M.

The Right Hon. JAMES STUART WORTLEY, Governor, in the Chair.

It was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously:
That the balance-sheet and report be, and are hereby, approved, confirmed, and adopted.

proved, confirmed, and adopted.

It was also proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously: That the best thanks of this meeting are due, and are hereby given, to the Governor, Deputy-Governors, and Directors for the great care and attention they have given to the interests of the shareholders, and for the extremely satisfactory results which have arisen therefrom.

It was also proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously: That the cordial thanks of this Meeting are eminently due, and are hereby offered, to Albert Grant, Esq., M.P., the Managing Director, for the talent displayed by him in the administration of the affairs of the Company.

It was further proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously: That the thanks of the Meeting be given to Aifred Lowe, Esq., Secretary, for his unvarying altention; and to him and the other officers of the Company for their industry and zeal during the past half year.

By order of the Court of Directors,

J. STUART WORTLEY, Governor.

ALFRED LOWE, Secretary,

Nos. 17 and 18 Cornhill, London, October 24, 1866.

THE CREDIT FONCIER and MOBILIER

of ENGLAND (Limited).—The prospectuses and forms of application for the shares of the new issue of capital of this Company are now ready, and, as well as copies of the half-yearly report and balance-sheet, can be obtained at the Company's offices.

Nos. 17 and 18, Cornhill, London, 24th October, 1865.

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